

**Appendix 3**  
**Consultation Responses**

**Response 1**

You will lose a lot of taxi drivers and operators if the new prices come in because Wolverhampton Council taxi drivers are paying Fraction of the price.

**Response 2**

Why will it become cheaper for operators to renew but more for drivers when the administration costs should be the same.

**Response 3**

After receiving the proposed price increases in a email I ask you to take a few things into consideration in today's current climate

Id like to point out that bolsover is struggling for a taxi service on a regular basis resulting in out of town taxis now trying to move in diluteing the amount of jobs available.

These are some of the reason

Cost of installing unecessary cctv systems.

Cost inflation of badge requirements right from being a new driver to current re newals.

You may have a portfolio of bolsover district plated cars on your books but I can honestly say that less than 10 bolsover plated cars operate in our area le bolsover clowne creswell whitwell etc. Most now are working in such as mansfield chesterfield.

Or the most recent choice people have decided to get rid of bolsover badges and join such as chesterfield etc where they can carry out the same jobs in the same area at such lower outlay,ie no cctv required etc etc.

Since you merged with north east Derbyshire Council the service I'm my own experience has been nothing but a shambles and out to destroy such a nice trade totally understand legislations need to be in place to safe guard people but I strongly feel that 1 of you should actually get from behind the desk and join us in the field and ask us drivers how we see things from a practical side and day to day operating.

The fees for example badge from 180 to 311 is such a huge jump.we dnt have much choice in a shorter period badge only under certain circumstances ie through you.

The introduction of cctv in my taxis when I now only carry out airport transportation is such a big out lay at 500 to 600 when personally do I really need to film airport customers.I think a bit of common sense should of been used here rather than made mandatory.

A chesterfield driver at such less outlay can cover the same area n jobs at less outlay.

In my opinion it's not giving much appeal to get new drivers on board with such a large outlay.

On a separate situation you as a council haven't even supplied us with a hackney rank in bolsover so there's no way we can even get anything going in this current climate in resulting me giving my hackney up.ive raised this issue but noting comes of it basically fell on def ears us drivers opinions dnt count eh?

It's about time we had more say in day to day taxi licencing affairs as I think your price increase has already been decided and will go ahead no matter what oppions we have

#### **Response 4**

I am no longer interested.

#### **Response 5**

After reviewing the price increase I feel with all the other out lays that a taxi driver has to pay there will be a lot of drivers that will not be able to afford this.

There will be a massive exodus of drivers to other areas for their licences. I feel that the current situation and the current climate are going to have a massive effect on taxi drivers.

If the councils do this I feel this will have a negative affect on firms using unlicensed drivers to which these increases will be the reason why.

For safety reasons and safety to the public please do not do this as you will be putting the public at risk and I will unfortunately have to say that I would be one of the people who will state that I warned you this could happen.

Keep the prices reasonable and affordable and keep the drivers legal and the public safe.

#### **Response 6**

Thank you for the information regarding the proposed changes to the licensing fees. However, I would like to express my dissatisfaction with the suggested significant increase. While I understand the need to adjust the fees due to rising

administrative costs, I believe the proposed increase is too steep and could become a considerable burden for those operating in this industry.

I kindly request that you reconsider the scale of the increase, possibly by introducing more gradual changes that would allow for better adjustment to the new financial conditions.

### **Response 7**

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with the recent increase in consultation fees. As a responsible vehicle owner, I renew my Vehicle License every six months, currently paying £92. However, this fee is set to rise to £123, which I feel is unreasonable given the circumstances.

If there were an option to renew the Vehicle License annually, I might consider the increase more justifiable, but at this rate, it just feels excessive.

Additionally, I find it difficult to understand why fees continue to rise, especially when services like CCTV—which are essential for our own safety—are restricted. For example, only one camera is being used despite us paying for it, essentially serving your interests rather than ours.

I have always prioritized maintaining my vehicle in top condition, but the increasing fees are becoming overwhelming. I would greatly appreciate it if you could either freeze the current fees or introduce an option to renew the Vehicle License for a full year, along with adjustments to the Driving License fees as well.

Many thanks and would forward to your response.

### **Response 8**

Don't agree. That is a huge increase.

### **Response 9**

Objection to Increase in Fees – January ,2025

Having had a look at the fees advertised, the advert is not correct.

At the General Licensing Committee in October the members were not correctly informed appendix 2. The comparisons given are not correct leading to councillors basing there decisions on incorrect data. I have only had one reply from

Erewash Borough Council

Derby Road

Long Eaton

Derbyshire

NG10 1HU

There fee correctly includes the test fee, in the comparison Bolsover doesn't, the vehicle test fee is part of the licence fee and should be included. So £246 renewal + £150 = £396 which would make it the dearest in your own example. Wolverhampton by comparison have reduced there vehicle licence fee year on year, I believe it's currently £95.

I would be interested to have details of any 'best value' comparison the council has carried out in respect of its licensing functions and how it compares with the authorities it may have used as a 'benchmark'

By virtue of the Local Government Act 1999 the authority is required to carry out such comparison.

The Council is a District authority and exercises powers under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government( Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in connection with the grant and supervision of licences for Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and Operators of PHV's as well as the drivers of such vehicles.

The Council is empowered to levy fees for the carrying out of those functions, by virtue of S53(2) and S70(1) of the 1976 Act.

Fees charged must be reasonable and no more than sufficient in the aggregate, in respect of S70, to cover the Council's costs in whole or in part.

It has been established in a number of cases before the courts that a Council may not derive a profit or surplus from such licensing activity.

While the question of what is 'reasonable' can only be resolved by challenge, it seems clear that 'costs' charged to accounts to be recovered by licence fee income must be commensurate with the actual and necessary expenditure of human and material resources.

It follows that the Council must be able to demonstrate that those costs charged directly or by apportionment can be identified as being relevant and proportionate.

Therefore I believe that suspending the implementation of the proposed fees increases would be a reasonable course of action until the authority have had time to supply the information requested below.