

Andrew Procter

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Sarah Taylor,

As requested in your notice, placed in the Lancaster Guardian, dated February 25, 2011, I am writing to object to the proposed increase in fee variations for private hire vehicles. Due to what I am sure you are well aware are trying times for everyone, I cannot agree that it is an opportune moment to increase any of our fees, especially when we are having to personally absorb the huge increases in all operating costs for our vehicles. I am well aware that compared to the increase in fuel costs this proposed increase isn't the largest cost that we have to absorb, but any increases make difficult conditions even more difficult. I may be in error, but I believe that this is the third year since we last had an increase in meter rates, which of course means that owners have had to personally bear the cost increases year on year since. I am of the personal opinion that increases in costs are not a problem when you have the freedom to pass those costs on to your customers, if you decide that is in the interests of your business to do so. Unfortunately we do not have this freedom and are reliant on your good selves at the council to realise that we cannot indefinitely absorb ever increasing business costs personally and to realise that we do actually need a rise in meter rates to address at least a good proportion of these increases, if not all of them. If your argument is that you need this increase to cover your costs, then I can only add that we also need to be able to cover ours. Expecting us to drive more and more hours to try and recover these increases is hardly a sensible way to go and is in no way going to help improve passenger safety. I thank you for taking the time and trouble to consider my objections.

Yours

Andrew Procter