

MLTDA Proposed Medway Hackney Carriage Tariff Submission

The previous Medway Hackney Carriage tariff increase was introduced in September 2022. Since this increase in the Medway tariff, the costs of running a business as a Hackney Carriage or Private hire driver has continued to rise above the level of inflation. For example hire and reward insurance, fuel and purchase prices of new and used vehicles alongside vehicle repairs have all continued to steadily rise at faster rates than ever before. The Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (MLTDA) were approached by several of our members to submit a tariff increase at the earliest opportunity to compensate for the rise in the costs of running our businesses alongside the ongoing cost of living crisis.

This proposal is being submitted by the MLTDA on behalf of the trade in the absence of the proposed Medway Licensing Tariff Review Policy that is scheduled for implementation later this year.

MLTDA tariff review survey

Following the requests by the MLTDA members to submit a tariff variation to increase the Hackney Carriage fare in Medway, the MLTDA conducted a Medway tariff review online survey. The results of this survey are attached.

After a conversation with Mandy Francis regarding the MLTDA tariff survey, Ms Francis very kindly agreed to share the MLTDA survey to all Medway Licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers to give full Medway trade inclusion in any new proposed tariff submission. The MLTDA survey link and covering letter was sent out by email by licensing on the 24th of November 2023 to all Medway licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers.

In an effort to gain a maximum response rate to the survey, a reminder email was also sent out by the MLTDA on the 4th of December 2023 to our database of 358 drivers, as well as continually sharing the survey link on our closed group social media page and member WhatsApp groups and newsletters to ensure that every driver has had the opportunity to respond and have their say.

The MLTDA tariff survey was closed on the 29th of December 2023. The results of the survey were then discussed on the 3rd of January 2024 by the MLTDA committee members.

The Current Medway tariff

The Medway maximum authorised tariff consists of three elements to charge the final fare upon a hiring.

Tariff 1

- The flag/starting price = £3
- Every 170 yards travelled = 20 pence
- Every 40 seconds of waiting time = 20 pence

Tariff 2 is one and a half of tariff 1

Tariff 3 is double tariff 1

Proposed new Medway Hackney Carriage tariff MLTDA submission

After careful consideration and discussion of the survey results and driver comments, the MLTDA committee voted unanimously in favour of the below proposed new Hackney Carriage tariff.

The Medway Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2021-26 states in section 8.1.2 ;

8.1.2 Medway Council will review the tariff when a bona-fide proposal is received

Therefore under section 8.1.2 of the policy. The MLTDA would like to propose the following increase to the Medway Hackney Carriage fare tariff.

The MLTDA would like to propose that the flag/starting price of the taximeter (tariff 1) be increased from £3 to £4.

The distance and waiting time elements of the Medway Hackney fare tariff are to be left unchanged.

The increase in the flag/starting price would also be reflected in tariff 2 and 3.

Therefore the new proposed Medway maximum authorised tariff would be ;

Tariff 1

- The flag/starting price = £4
- Every 170 yards travelled = 20 pence
- Every 40 seconds of waiting time = 20 pence

Tariff 2 is one and a half of tariff 1

Tariff 3 is double tariff 1

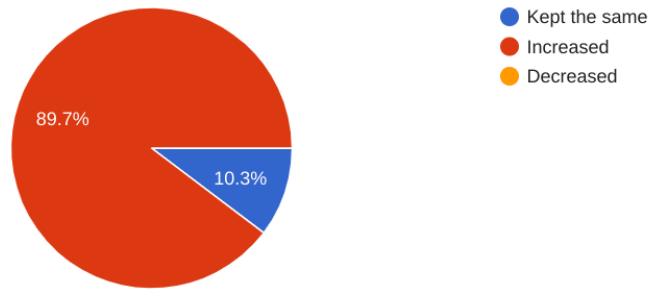
At the time of writing, Medway currently sits at position 172 out of 329 authorities in the PHTM national fare table with a 2 mile journey costing £7. If this proposed increase is agreed by the committee Medway would move to position 54 in the national fare table making a 2 mile journey cost £8.

Nigel Jackson
Chairman
Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers Association
www.mltda.uk

Do you want the Medway tariff to be

136 responses

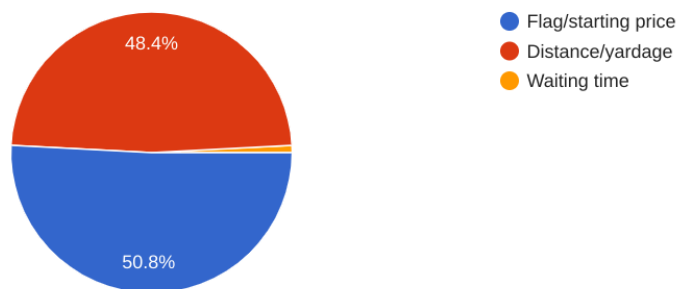
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Which element of the fare would you like to change?

122 responses

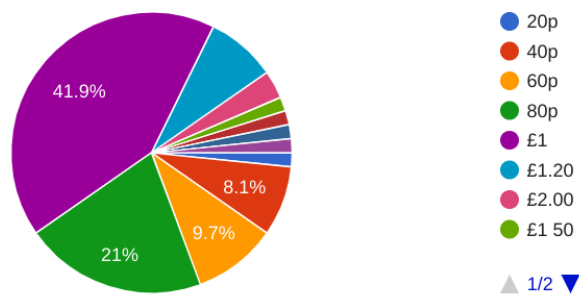
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The flag price (tariff 1) is currently £3 . By how much would you like the flag to increase? If you chose the other option, please give details in the comments section at the end of the survey.

62 responses

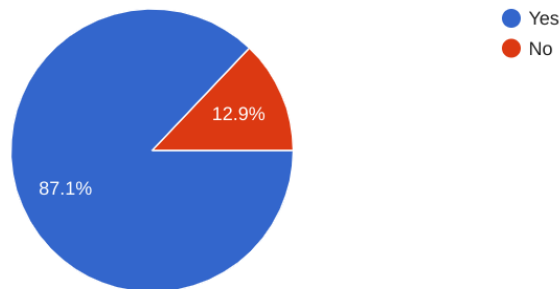
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If the Flag price is increased , do you want this to be reflected in tariff 2 and 3?
If you chose no, please give an explanation in the comments section at the end of the survey.

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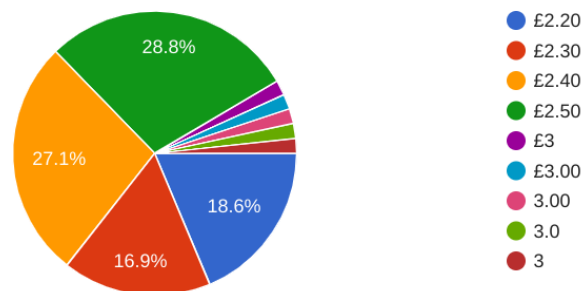
62 responses



The distance part of the fare is currently £2.07 per mile (tariff 1).
What approximate price per mile would you like ?

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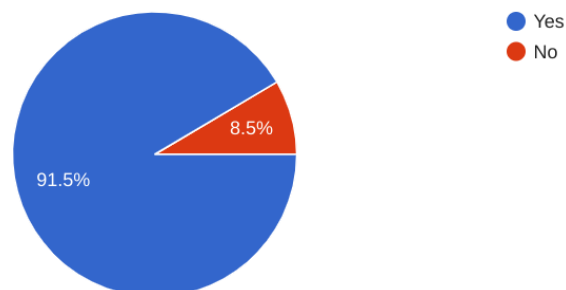
59 responses



If the yardage/distance part of the tariff is changed, do you want this to be reflected in tariff 2 and 3?
If you chose no, please give an explanation in the comments section at the end of the survey.

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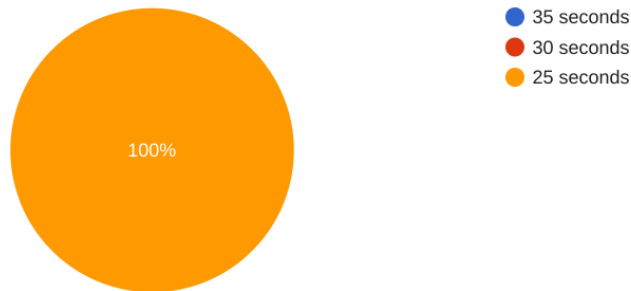
59 responses



The waiting time is currently 20 pence for 40 seconds (tariff 1).
What would you like to change the waiting time to?

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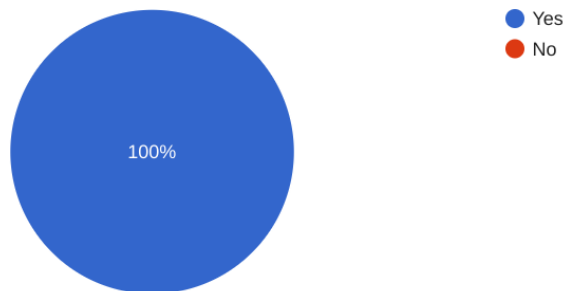
1 response



If the waiting time is changed, do you want this change to be reflected in tariff 2 and 3?
If you chose no, please give an explanation in the comments section at the end of the survey.

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1 response



Driver comments

The flag price should not be reflected in tariff 2 and 3 as this will make these tariffs uncompetitive

The Medway tariff should work with the current inflation

We have lots of small fairs and dead mileage because these people have stopped using Uber for short journeys. We need to be on a lvl playing field. I also think and I know a hell of a lot of drivers agree with me , is we should have the option to work on the Uber platform as well as one of our operators. This way it would push out the transport for London drivers out of Medway. Also think the waiting time should be changed to £20 an hour .

Need to increase start price and also the waiting

A minimum card payment of at least £5.00

Other borough already increase their traff After corona lockdown.why weren't?

I believe increasing the Distance would be better than increasing the starting price otherwise customers will start arguing soon as they see £3.50/£4 starts. I would say either keep the yards/distance same and put the price up to £2.40 a mile or bring the yards down to 125yards 20p. We all as drivers need it this happen as soon as due to the increase in living expenses. Thank you !

In my opinion I believe increasing the distance to £2.40 per mile would be better instead of starting price. Otherwise customers will complain if they see £3.50/4.00 at starting.

We need to increase the fare as the cost of living has increased extremely.

Cost of living don't think people will be able to afford it

If we Do Accept Card payments the Card Fees which occur

I suggest to increase waiting time.

Competition with Uber, why put fares up

The number of jobs from ranks is decreasing so increasing the flag would certainly help a driver earn about £10 more a day which would help towards cost increase such as fuel, taxi insurance etc. Thank you

In my opinion increasing the flag price will help towards card interest payments and waiting for a connection/ service particularly on short journeys. Some days I can wait up to a total of 45 minutes to get a Wi-Fi connection. This is not uncommon. Also if a small job is booked with a card payment and I help my passenger with assistance at both ends of the journey which is not uncommon either, this can take a lot longer than the payment refers. ie an elderly passenger from Hanway to Twydall lane church. Payment on a card was 4.20 yet the meter price at the end of the journey was 8.00 taking approximately 25 mins. I am happy to address passenger needs but this does not pay the bills.

Due to current increases in life

I got wheelchair accessible vehicle 2.00 litre diesel 25/30 miles mpg very expensive for me thanks

As you know everything is has gone up recently I believe this is fare what I have suggested, a quick example I used to buy a McDonald's milk shake for £1.19 now the same milk shake is £2.59 the point is the prices has gone up more than 100 percent.

In recent times prices has gone up for everything we should have the pay rise too

Increase should happen due to cost of living

We should have an increase annually never should we be left stranded on a tariff set eight years earlier again. I would propose a 20p increase in flag first year followed by 20p on distance the second year, ongoing that way over a ten year period we would increase our tariffs by one pound on flag and one pound on distance a very modest reasonable increase in my opinion

The cost of living crisis. We need a small tariff increase to compensate.

I think the start price should increase by at least 60 to 80p the distance price should also be increased by 20p on the mile this was not an option to chose both . The price increase should be reflected in tariff 1 2 and 3.

I also believe the tariff should automatically be reviewed annually and thought this was agreed following the previous tariff increase..

The current tariff rates are already too expensive for many of the public, raising the rates further will reduce our customer base.

I also think 20p a mile should be an increase after first mile plus waiting time be increased by 20%

Due to high prices of fuel and vehicles we need to be increased of tariffs

We really need tariff increase as costs of running taxi vehicle are increasing .

We have to increase the initial fare when meter is switched on also on top of distance increase

Until we have Uber working in Medway I suggest tariff should be the same as we are quite similar in most case with Uber prices

Inflation

A small annual rise would be better than a big rise

Cost of living crisis. Price of everything went high. Extremely difficult to cope with income vs expenditure including car maintenance

The flag price of meter has been not changed since last 18 years . Thanks

Want also a minimum fare of £5.00

Fare should be increased by at least 15% DUE TO OVER HEAD COST

Stop uber

Due to the cost of living tariffs should be increased

It's not long since the last rise in tariff

My reason for tariff increase is due to taxi insurance raised by 50% fuel doubled over the past few years and cost of living increase in my every day life

Starting fare should ideally be £4 in my opinion. If you use Uber or other competitive ride apps their minimum fare is easily £6 for the shortest of journeys. I think maybe we should start the meter on £4 but the meter shouldn't tick over another £0.20 until maybe 380 yards later then resume as normal (190 yards) after 380 yards has been driven. Hopefully this can make customers realise that although our prices have increased we are still cheaper than competitors on some journeys such as small journeys that usually go under £5.

It will help drivers whom work late and give them a edge to work nights to cover more work

As we know the card payment is mandatory and there are customers who only use us when they take small journey which UBER don't because they charge minimum £6.80 so when we take card in this starting increase will help the trade and will fair too.

I have suggested an increase to the flag of tariff 1 only so that T2 and T3 will not be affected

I prefer to increase waiting time.

The current tariff needs to be increased by at least 10% to take into account the additional costs charged for card machines and to allow for additional costs for increased insurance and other running cost also for an annual wage rise.

Any increase should be made to reflect the use of card payments which means at the moment we are losing money for charge payments

Yes

Living cost is increased

Flag price needs to go up. Cost of living

Cost of living very high

Would like the starting price to be £3:50 too

Inflation appears has dropped and reports state it will fall further and we are losing more and more work to Uber.

With Uber operating in Medway, any fare increase will have a devastating effect on our trade. Also with the high cost of living for everyone it's not the right time for a fare increase. Maybe the council can help the trade in other ways I.e; scrapping or adjusting the age limit on vehicles

Am increase; would play into the illegal trade working in Medway.We need to be more competitive with our pricing.

What happened about uber

Due to increase of fuel prices and parts and vehicle prices more than doubled

With the cost of purchasing/maintaining and running a vehicle vastly increasing over recent years. Also the general cost of living has vastly increased and we aren't even charging some customers £5 for a fare!!!