

Comments from respondents

Please provide any comments that relate to your decisions.

No variation requested

Pretty happy with how everything is as it is currently. Thank you.

I feel that due to fairly recent fare tariff increases no further increases should occur at the present time.

Any increase to the tariff will only benefit UBER drivers. As much as the Carrick needs to be increased due to rising costs. You need to tackle the issue of uber drivers operating in our area while not regulated by the council. Once that issue has been addressed, then the tariff can change. Any changes to the tariff without addressing UBER drivers, will be the end of regulated taxis.

The Medway taxi trade has lost a lot of business over the last several years, I believe this is due to a few reasons. The trade also does not have a great reputation; I am not sure why this is. By increasing the tariff, this will further escalate the loss of business and reputation. When tariff is voted to be increased, this is then advertised for 2 weeks in the newspaper for any comments. I would very much like the tariff to remain as it is and an advertisement go out, stating the Medway drivers have voted for the tariff to not be increased.

I strongly believe that any increase in tariffs would further diminish our share of what little trade there is left for locally licensed drivers.

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I think our taxi fare is high compared to others in Medway, so I decided not to change any prices.

I'm not convinced an increase would do us more benefit than harm.

I think keep at it is for 1 more year.

Our prices are now very competitive to the competition i think having an increase this year wouldn't be a wise move.

Due to the cost of living, we need to keep the tariff as it is at the moment.

Vary the flag and the waiting time

The cost of living and minimum wage has increased over the years. As for a self-employed taxi driver we struggle to earn and match minimum wage after covering our costs and this affects us meeting the increasing living costs on daily basis.

As you are aware, the cost of operating as a taxi driver has risen significantly over the past few years, and the current rates no longer reflect the economic realities we face. Fuel prices, vehicle maintenance, insurance premiums, licensing fees, and general living costs have all increased substantially. These rising expenses directly affect our ability to provide a reliable and safe service while maintaining a sustainable income. Without a corresponding increase in fares, many of us are struggling to keep our businesses viable. In addition, the national minimum wage has continued to rise, and yet our earnings per hour have effectively decreased when accounting for overheads. Taxi drivers provide a vital public service, often

working unsociable hours, supporting vulnerable passengers, and offering a safe means of transport.

Can you please have a look at 6 seater car Tariff?

Over the last 15yrs we've had to work on a startup tariff that's not kept in line with inflation and increased fuel costs also the licensing fees going up when the startup tariff was low.

Agree with change to help running costs.

Vary the flag only

Flag fare needs to be increased. Vehicle running costs have increased. And We will still be cheaper than Uber. Uber's start fare is £6.99.

Vary the yardage only

Fuel is steadily on the rise be it petrol diesel or electricity. We need to keep up with these fuel increases in order to make the job cost effective. The reason I said no increase on startup is because it will more likely deter the general public although we are predominantly cheaper than Uber.

Hi could we scrap extra charge tariff on Bank Holiday Mondays it is no benefit whatsoever the majority of customers simply refuse to use taxis or use user. Takings on a bank holiday are far lower than a regular day. perhaps this question could be put to a consultation or a vote. I have spoken to colleagues a vast majority are in favour of scrapping bank holiday Monday increased fares.

What about increasing the price for more than 4 passengers? We 5,6,7 and 8 seat vehicles. But no increase for extra passengers. This is victimising multi seat taxi/ph drivers.

Yes, with the cost of living constantly increasing I feel there's need for an increase...also the taxi insurance for public hire is a huge amount.

I would like to say that it will help with Rising Operational Costs, Financial Sustainability

Tariff should be increased annually 20 pence alternatively mileage one year flag the next

I believe the tariffs should automatically be altered each year relative to the cost of living.

Vary the yardage and the waiting time

The fuel, the minimum wage, the vehicle insurance, the road tax and the cost of the taxi licence have increased in the last few years. We are struggling with current prices really.

Our costs have increased significantly over the last couple of years. Fuel, insurance, maintenance, and we had to cover all this with loss of income for drivers.

Cost of petrol and insurance everything has gone up

Inflation has unfortunately hurt a lot of us taxi drivers, not Inflation but also the amount of competition that Uber poses. We should be compensated fairly for our work as we have no pension and holiday pay, therefore the yardage pay should be fairly increased.

With the living cost gone I believe the tariff should go up too

We don't get many jobs due to uber only few local jobs so increasing the price will help us to survive.

I am facing higher costs to be a private hire driver every year, so I feel my proposed changes help towards these. Work has decreased also by about 10/15% due to cross border taxi companies making this job much lower paid

Our costs have all gone up in the last 18 months and our earning keep going down week on week due uber and out of town drivers which are allowed to work in Medway now. It's just getting harder to earn money in Medway

I've felt the rising costs of fuel, maintenance, spare parts, and even insurance. This fare adjustment isn't about making extra profit it's about being able to keep our vehicles on the road and support our families.

Inflation is still not under acceptable levels hence interest rates remain high. For taxis it is more notable in car parts and repair costs, for example a budget tyre cost £45 in 2020 and now it is between £75-95. Also, drivers have lost 1/3rd of their earnings due to Uber.

I feel by reducing the yardage to 165 yards (3 percent) in real terms by taking into account the flag price, is an increase in the total fare over a standard 2 mile journey equates to an average 1.5 percent increase which reflects the ongoing rising in costs we face. This is still below inflation and also keeps the price competitive against out of town private hire operators

Why do we only have a choice of flag or yardage. The flag should also be increased. I would suggest by 20p plus yardage and wait. Increase.

With the cost of living increasing and competition there is no other choice.