

Appendix 2 Request from Unite the Union

Branch NEYH/302/3

Branch Secretary

Leeds Cab Section Branch



Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

North East, Yorkshire & Humber

21/4/2022

URGENT PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL NON-METERED 'EXTRA FEE'

Dear Andrew, Cllr Coupar, Cllr Wray,

As you will be fully aware, we are in the midst of one of the hardest financial times that we can remember in living memory, with significant increases in the cost of not only fossil fuels, but Electric Charging PkWH and LPG too.

Drivers are taking a huge hit to their already beleaguered earnings due to not having the capacity to offset some of these costs.

As any business owner will tell you, it is all about '**profit and loss**' and that the profit should always outweigh the loss and given that each are small business owners, it is hard to comprehend the true cost to each driver with these increases.

However, it is easy to know that from my own experience, electric charging has rocketed, and it costs me now upwards of £6 per day EXTRA, a petrol driven vehicle will have on average a £7 - £10 EXTRA and a diesel vehicle approximately £6 - £8 EXTRA.

As a collective, which includes all the Hackney carriage companies and us, we recently met to discuss this and a prospective fare increase, which we will be submitting shortly. However, it was agreed at that meeting that an increase with immediate effect must happen to try and mitigate to some degree the increased costs hitting drivers due to the situation with oil prices and that of gas too, which is used to generate electricity.

We realise that a precedent has already been set in relation to additional FUEL fees as this was used in 2000 when the tankers drivers went on strike across the whole UK over pay and conditions and at that time the EXTRA FEE was set at 20p.

Obviously as time has moved on, fuel (in whichever variant is used) has increased and other elements of running a business like ours too and hence we all support an **IMMEDIATE EXTRA FEE OF 50P** to be permitted by drivers to **add to every fare they take** until such time as the fuel price situation begins to decrease significantly or when the fare increase proposal that will be announced would then be approved and implemented in to vehicles.

It is always the case that no driver should be earning less than the 'living wage', yet sadly with these increases and the fortunate position like Private Hire to increase at will, drivers are now earning on average less than £8 per hour, not even considering other costs attributed that must be covered within that hourly rate.

We trust that given this has already been approved previously IN 2000 and that drivers are suffering and that in todays meeting you stated that you were keen

to help drivers, this is the time to put those words in to action and support the drivers where they need it most now.....in their take home pay.

I look forward to this being approved with immediate effect and signage being created by LCC with the City crest on it to show the public that this is an approved fee increase and that it will be added to the meter fare at the end of a journey as the 'extras' buttons no longer have the facility to add on amounts via meters.

This is sent on behalf of Unite and encompasses all Hackney Carriage companies and we must urge all those involved to expedite this with utmost urgency.

Kindest regards

