

Lisa Jones

From: Licence Team
Sent: 21 February 2014 09:07
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: FW: Objection to Fees for Taxis and Private Hire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2014 20:20
To: Licence Team
Subject: Objection to Fees for Taxis and Private Hire

I object to the fees as advertised in The Citizen on 24th January 2014.

For over thirty years Gloucester City Council has failed to fully demonstrate that it is collecting fees for the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles as constrained by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This aforementioned Act was adopted by choice by Gloucester City Council and yet this council has chosen on more than one occasion to totally ignore the constraints and duties required.

Fees are supposed to be based on actual cost and yet, at the only time that officers from the treasury gave evidence on these matters, it has been clearly admitted that the suggested costs would not disappear if all taxi and private hire trade were to be abolished in Gloucester. Read the Act and apply common sense and you are driven to the conclusion that if you cannot cut the cost by cutting the existence of the taxi and private hire trade then you cannot justify that cost. Then there is the matter of obeying the Act inasmuch as the fees must relate to actual costs and related increases. Since it is Gloucester City Council stated policy that taxi fares must relate to actual costs and, since the taxis operate in exactly the same area and cost/tax regime as Gloucester City Council, the Council must explain why Licensing Fees have increased so much faster than the Taxi Tariff of Fares. I remind you of the simple fact that a £6 fare would actually be in excess of £20 if the same rules/calculations had been applied that Gloucester City Council has used to calculate fees.

I have suggested in the past that there may be a need for reference to the District Auditor and then to the Local Government Ombudsman because of flagrant abuses in these matters and again I come to the same question.

C.D.Rodgers
 Taxi Driver 21, over 39 years experience in the trade.

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