

Lisa Jones

From: Licence Team
Sent: 21 February 2014 09:05
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: FW: Objection to Taxi Licensing Fees As Advertised on 24-01-14
Attachments: PH and HC figures.pdf

Richard Barnett
 Licensing And Enforcement Officer
 Public Protection

From: Zeya Ahmed [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2014 18:01
To: Licence Team
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to Taxi Licensing Fees As Advertised on 24-01-14

I object to the fees as advertised in The Citizen on 24th January 2014. The accounts figures provided do not tally with the number of applications received and licences issued. I have attached the figures as provided by Lisa Jones and which she confirmed in a meeting on 17th December 2013 as being correct. I also attach the tables provided by Lisa setting out the numbers of various licence applications received and licences in force. I find it odd that in 2011-12, 41 applications for operator licences were received but there were 53 licences in force and in 2012-13, 39 applications lead to 40 licences; were some given away for free?

Just looking at the income in 2012-13, there were 138 valid HCV licences and 315 valid PHV licences; at the current rate of £183.50, that equates to a total of **£83,125.50** for the 453 vehicle licences. **£20,104** was received in fees for private hire operator licences. With HC and PH Driver licences, the figures provided are less clear but just using the 17 2-year licences issued at £140 each and the 43 3-year licences issued at £200 each, we have a total of **£10,980**. Adding the three totals together, we have a total income of **£114,209.50**. This total does not include the income from the approximately 100 1-year badges issued at £77 each and various other licence fees collected for activities such as knowledge tests, vehicle transfers etc. I did not dwell on the figures relating to applications received because it is not clear what happens to the fees for unsuccessful applications.

In the PH & HC figures document, line items 9246, 9247, 9248 and 9301 relate to fees collected from licence holders; they total **£82,835**, the remaining **£30,792** is for internal juggling. The question raised many times over the past few years is, what kind of record-keeping is being done by the licensing department and the City Council as a whole and are there any genuine figures available? To make the 2012-13 figures balance, approximately **£40,000** of licensing income is not recorded anywhere. I am not being unduly alarmist and I believe my figures are on the conservative side.

I object to the new fee of £50 for exemption from displaying livery for executive hire vehicles as the fee seems to arbitrary as admitted in the trade liaison meeting of 29th January 2014. No allowance has been made for cases where the applicant makes applications for several vehicles at one time; the time taken to process bulk applications would not be that much more than for dealing with one vehicle.

It is for the reasons stated above that I object to the advertised fees in their entirety and believe that they should be further reduced as the department is unable to keep proper records and has no idea what it has taken or requires to carry out its duties. By law, the fees charged must not exceed the cost of carrying out its duties.

Zeya Ahmed

HCD 025

Gloucester Hackney Carriage Association

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licences valid year type	Applications received					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
HCD	254	133	124	254	65	67
PHD	434	191	189	527	228	210
PHO	95	53	40	100	41	39
HCV	131	150	138	268	161	148
PHV	268	293	315	535	321	327

2 year issued

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
HCD	15	4	7
PHD	45	10	10

3 year issued

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
HCD	25	16	16
PHD	50	30	27

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
PHO Licensed	95	53	40
Applications	100	41	39
Income	£53,755	£18,762	£20,104