

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Licensing](#)  
**Subject:** Temporary Fuel Surcharge  
**Date:** 13 May 2022 08:44:04

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Re: your letter of 13th April 2022.

I believe that the proposal put forward by some hackney carriage drivers and subsequently rejected by the Licensing Committee was ill conceived but I also feel that the alternative proposed by the Committee to be just as much so.

If it is accepted that fuel prices have risen dramatically in recent times and that there is a fair case for an increase in fares to compensate for the extra costs, surely it is logical that the increase should reflect the amount of fuel used on the job undertaken. To have a set amount for all jobs regardless of distance involved, be it 60p or 20p, just doesn't make sense. There is also a degree of inequality shown to our customers to charge the same amount to those who only travel perhaps half a mile as those who travel twenty.

Since our last fare increase in November 2020, fuel has reached a figure of something like 30p per litre more than it was. Very much in round figures, I estimate that a twenty mile fare ( forty mile round trip back to the starting point ) would cost between £1.30 and £1.40 more than it did at that time. 20p barely covers it.

I would suggest that an increase should be pro rata to the distance involved in the metered fare, perhaps something like 20p per four miles. A driver could use his tripmeter to measure the distance and show the customer if required. An explanatory notice from the Council could be displayed next to the fare chart in the cab to avoid the inconvenience and cost of having meters changed and a three monthly review would be reasonable.

I write this as an individual, not attempting to represent a body of drivers. I am also conscious that I write with my experience as a driver based in Felixstowe and the type of work generated there. I do not know how this compares with work in the Northern area of the Council and whether my suggestion would suit my colleagues based there.

I hope you might give this some consideration.

Yours faithfully

I.Pescott  
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