

I have recently applied to renew my Hackney drivers badge at a cost of £111, which includes the CRB check.

My Hackney Carriage vehicle license is at present £210.

Your proposals are way above inflation and are quite unacceptable.

If the vehicle licenses were capped then the proposed increase would be more acceptable.

As it stands, the majority of owner drivers like myself, drive taxis for a living and have no other income.

Because our local authority deregulated the Hackney plates many years ago it has allowed part time operators to simply license there family saloon car and become taxi owner/drivers who simply trade after they have finished there normal employment.

We are not only competing with other taxi companies, but with other part time owners who simply top up there earnings.

Maybe a part time operator should pay the higher cost of both Hackney Carriage vehicle and drivers licenses.

After all they have other income from there full time employer.

Would it not make sense to deter these part time operators from stealing our livelihood.

Yours faithfully,  
Hackney Carriage

**Sent:** 02 January 2009 21:39  
**Cc:** Licensing Mail Box  
**Subject:** Hackney / Private Hire Fees

Could the following points about the proposed fees be clarified;

a) Will the option to renew a PH/Hackney drivers licence for 12 months still be available? If yes what would be the proposed cost?

b) How many vehicles would be covered by the Private Hire Operators Licence? Currently there are two tiers in Congleton 2-4 & 5+.

c) Currently in Macclesfield, Specially Adapted vehicles are not subject to bi-annual inspection / test until they attain 10 years of age. Will this be continued or will they be subject to the 7 year "rule" as other vehicles.

and not related to the new fees.

d) Drivers who are EXCLUSIVELY employed on fixed run contracts (Corporate and Education - predominantly female drivers) and who never do general PH or Hackney work are they (CBC) and will they (ECC) be subject to the drivers "Knowledge" test.

Many Thanks

*ment.*

**Sent:** 06 January 2009 14:00  
**To:** Licensing Mail Box  
**Subject:** Proposed License Fees 1st April 2009

I wish to object to the proposed license fees as published by yourselves. There can be no justification for such a large increase which is way over inflation. The vehicle license from £230.00 to £300.00 is a 30.00 % increase, the drivers license from £109.00 to £204.00 is an increase of 87.00%. The proposed 5 year license for Operators amounts to pretty much the same per year as the existing charge but is unnecessary. Remember, it was Congleton BC who some years ago reduced it from a 3 year to a 2 year but for the same charge! A 3 year one is ample. These proposed increases are preposterous and disgraceful and will add yet another burden on operators and will surely lead to fare increases to the paying public. If the departments costs have/are increased(ing) by that amount then let us have some cost cutting to show that the Council does really care. Otherwise you are treating us like a "cash cow".

Your confirmation of this communication would be appreciated.

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Attachments:

My Council.doc



My Council.doc (30  
KB)

I write to you in the vain hope that you can be of help. The new authority has just published its proposed increases in its license fees to the taxi trade. I attach a copy for your perusal. In it the vehicle license is proposed at £300.00, currently £230.00 an increase of 23.33% and Driver license is proposed at £204, currently £109.00 an increase of 87.00%!! This is without the £39.00 CRB fee. The other main change is the operators license at £345.00 for 5 years which on an annual basis is not an increase but at the moment we pay £159.00 for 2 years. This was changed some few years ago by CBC when it was reduced from 3 to 2 years but for the same fee!! Why do we need a 5 year license? It is a large sum to pay out. To put these prices into perspective 20 years ago a car was £80.00, drivers £45.00 for 3 years and operators license was £100 for 3 years!!

If this is the future after this reorganization then I can't wait for the Council Tax bill!! I thought that a new streamlined council would be more cost effective. Do they know what that means? They are just treating us as a "cash cow" but these proposed fees will have to be passed on to the public and other government bodies who use our services.

I have made my objections known to the Council as have many others so I am not asking you to write to them on my behalf, unless you feel that would help, but is there anything else that you/we could do?

regards,



8 JAN 2009

Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 7th January 2009

The Licensing Officer  
Congleton Borough Council  
Westfields  
Middlewich Road  
Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ

**Re: Proposed increase in Private Hire/Hackney Carriage - Driv Lic Fees - Licence Plate Fees**

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been contacted by a fellow Private Hire Operator re the above proposed increases.

I was unaware that these increases were in the pipeline and was somewhat shocked when I was told how much they are likely to be. The figures that have been quoted are (a), an increase in the 3year drivers licence fee from £106.00p to ££204, and (b), an increase in the Licence Plate fees from £230 to £300.

The drivers licence increase equates to 92.4% and the Licence Plate fee to 30.4%.

The reason for these increases, I am informed, are because of an amalgamation of local authorities and the licence fees re-assessed.

Congleton Borough Council will apparently be shredding their responsibilities for these increases and and 'flak' will be passed on to the new licensing authority. However, this does not sit well with existing operators within the Congleton Borough licensing area.

During the past year and beyond, private hire and taxi operators have been subjected to **massive increases** in operating costs and to my knowledge I am still operating on a Scale of Fares "with effect from midnight on 22nd June 2005."

Although the individual operator can do little to oppose these increases, there is perhaps a route through the Member of Parliament for the area concerned, and maybe through the European Court system.

These increases are completely unacceptable and I am forwarding a copy of this letter to my MP.

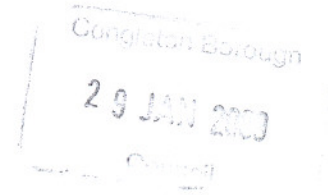
But before I send a copy of the letter to the MP, will you please acknowledge that the increases I have outlined are correct and also the reason for them.

I look forward to an early reply.

Yours faithfully

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Licensing Section (Cheshire East)  
c/o Congleton Borough Council,  
Westfields,  
Sandbach,  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ



**FAO: Licensing Section**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing in response to the proposed changed in Taxi Licensing Charges.

I feel that increase in the cost of operating my hackney carriage vehicle(s) by 43% is quite unfeasible and counter-intuitive. In the current economic climate, central government is committed to making sure that businesses can stay in business. The idea of increasing operating costs so dramatically without any added benefits to ourselves as operators does not fit with this principle.

According to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act of 1976 it is the council's responsibility to keep the cost of the licenses proportionate to the cost of administrating the licenses and the public ranks. I fail to see how this cost has shot up by 43% in the last 12 months.

I would like to see the current proposals reconsidered and a more reasonable proposal put forward.

Yours sincerely.

New Cheshire East Council license fees for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers & Operators

I wish to object most strongly to the new proposed license fees above which have increased by a huge proportion from the current Congleton Borough rate.

The increased rates are significantly above the rate of inflation and will lead to fare increases to the public and will particularly affect those of my customers who are poor, elderly or have health problems. Some live in the countryside where there is no public transport and rely on our support to take them to the shops, doctors, dentist, hospital etc.

I would expect the license rates to reduce as streamlining three councils into one should create significant cost savings within the Licensing Department.

The proposed increases are preposterous and disgraceful and will increase costs/create problems for the already hard hit Taxi/Private Hire trade & the paying public.

In this challenging economic climate when so many people are losing their jobs, increasing the Drivers License fee is a disincentive for firms to employ drivers. I would suggest that the proposed rates need to be reviewed again with consideration given to the implications.



Licensing Section  
c/o Congleton Borough Council  
Westfields  
Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ

Re: Proposed variation in Licence Fees relating to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

I write to lodge an objection to the proposed increase in licence fees re; your published notification of December 2008.

I am a Macclesfield Taxi Proprietor, with 11 years experience, trading as Silvertown / Call a Car currently operating 16 Taxis and Private Vehicles in Macclesfield plus providing facilities management services for a further 27 Taxis. I employ 30 staff.

My objections to the increases, in order of publication, are as follows.

1. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire

Your proposal represents a 42.85% increase in the annual charge, which is unprecedented in the current economic climate, especially as our fares, through negotiation with MBC increased by 5.77% in April 2008. Such a proposed increase could not be passed on to the customer and therefore would have to be borne by the Taxi proprietor reducing already diminishing margins, seriously compromising ability to continue to trade.

2. 6 month Test – no objection

3. Joint Badge Fee

Borne by drivers, the proposed increase of 9.67%, is 3.9% above the "wage" increase of 5.77%, and would impose unnecessary hardship.

4. Operators Licence - no objection

Notes:

I am concerned that the transition from MBC to Cheshire East is ill prepared for dealing with the complex issues of the Taxi/ private Hire industry and that the shadow council underestimates size of the Industry, over 2200 personnel, and its contribution directly to Council funds as well as the local economy.

9

My concerns are such that with others I am organising the formation of a liaison group. Rumour and hearsay abound therefore a number of proprietors would like the opportunity to meet and discuss with the shadow licensing committee what the future plans are for fare structure, testing facilities and administrative centres.

Guidance as to how this could be facilitated would be appreciated.

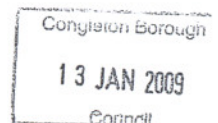
Yours Sincerely

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10



Licensing Section  
c/o Congleton Borough Council  
Westfields  
Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ

Re: Proposed variation in Licence Fees relating to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

I write to lodge an objection to the proposed increase in licence fees as described in your published notification of December 2008.

I am a Macclesfield Taxi Proprietor trading as Sparetime, operating 8 Taxis in Macclesfield, with 20 years experience.

My objections to the increases, in order of publication, are as follows.

1. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire

After months of negotiation via Macclesfield Licensing Committee and representatives of the Macclesfield Borough Taxi Trade a new Tariff was agreed to represent a fair increase in Fares( in force from 23April 2008) which reflected both the Council's on what would be a fair deal for the Council, the public and the Trade. This figure represented a 5.77 – 6.2% increase. The proposed increase represents a 42.85% increase in the annual charge. An increase of this magnitude could not be passed on to the customer and therefore would have to be borne by the Taxi proprietor seriously compromising ability to continue to trade. In the current economic climate an increase, if at all justified, relating to the agreed Fare rate of 5.77 – 6.2% may, after negotiations, be acceptable.

2. 6 month Test – no objection

3. Joint Badge Fee

A cost directly borne by drivers, who via the fare increase have seen a "wage" increase of 5.77 – 6.2%, therefore the proposed increase of 9.67%, 3.9% above the "wage" increase, would not be acceptable, imposing unnecessary hardship.

4. Operators Licence

No tangible objection as an increase of 4.54% reflects the net effect of the increase in fares.

Notes:

I am not proposing that an increase in fees is not warranted, Council admin & operating costs increase as do Taxi Trade costs. I am proposing that, through negotiation, fees are appropriate, reasonable and reflect a fair and equitable result for all parties.

Little seems to be forthcoming on the combined Fare structure, Testing facilities and administrative/ enforcement arrangements for Cheshire East.

The Fees, Fare structure, Testing facilities, administrative areas are all interlinked and there appears to be no forum for discussion between the Trade and the shadow Council representatives.

There are 566 Licenced drivers in the (old) Borough of Macclesfield, plus a further (approx) 140 support staff which include: Booking and despatch clerks: Accounts clerks: School Escorts: Car mechanics and valeters's.

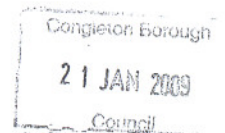
706 people from the Macclesfield borough with a vested interest in the future of the Taxi Trade in East Cheshire, add to this a conservative estimate of 1400( I will establish the exact numbers in due course) from Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich that is 2106 personnel, a large employer.

The extent of the contribution of the Taxi Industry to the service sector, the economic success and potential for Cheshire East Council cannot be underestimated.

There are a number of proprietors interested in forming a liaison group to facilitate an effective transition and provide a "voice for those working in the Trade.

Guidance as to how this could be facilitated would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



19 January 2009

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you with regard to the published increases for Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles and drivers.

The percentage of the increases is very high, i.e. £75 increasing to £204 for drivers.

Due to the decline in trade and the current economic climate I feel this is not supportive of sole traders and small businesses.

I look forward to hearing about consultation with the trade regarding this matter.

Kind regards



**Licence Fees:**

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you concerning the letters that we received from you on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

The comments that we would like to put forward, about the new licensing fees of Cheshire East Council seem to be over inflated.

Private Hire Vehicle licence has increased £70.00 and if your Vehicle is seven years old it will be then be £170.00 a year increase as there is now a extra re test every six months, which one of our Vehicles is approaching, plus a normal m.o.t. Private Hire/Hackney badges have increased £95.00.

Last year the fees came to £676.66 a year for our business, and now it will increase to £1205.00 (Excluding C.R.B) to us running three vehicles is a lot of money for a small company like ours to sustain every year, especially in a looming recession and there seems to be more and more Taxi Firms starting up. Which the local economy clearly isn't going to sustain, and these increases in fees don't seem to be justified, we would like to know what we are going to get of Cheshire East Council for this extra £528.34 a year increase approximately.

It seems to be that some one else has made this decision for all of us, and it's the small business that are going to suffer as usual. The news reports that we hear on the TV and radio announce that the government want to support and protect small businesses in this recession, but it seems to us that the only people who will benefit again is the government.

We never asked to join Cheshire East Council, and we think the fees and the vehicle conditions are totally unfair, unacceptable and unjustified. We are going to forwarded a letter of complaint to our local M.P.



To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the proposed licence fee increase for hackney carriage a private hire.

1/ The increase up to £300.00 for a hackney licence is in my opinion both unfair and unjust, and must have been dreamt up by some council official or officials suffering from "recession denial". Your % increase is totally out of step with falling inflation and the economic troubles of the local and wider world. The downturn in the High St, + the introduction of bus passes, more taxis on the Congleton Round and the threat to almost everyones jobs have all hit the Taxi trade, and if these unrealistic hikes in charges would be a massive blow to us all.

2

The proposal to have an extra vehicle test for vehicles over 7yrs old also seems to be something dreamt up by council officials with too much time on their hands.

While I agree totally that vehicles used for the transportation of the public "and ourselves" need to be in tip top condition, surely if the operators of





22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009

Ref: Cheshire East Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Licensing Conditions

In reply to your letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009 inviting views on the new proposed conditions, I feel I must strongly comment on the proposed increase of the annual testing fee to £300.

This represents an increase of 28% without a corresponding tariff rise, the effect would mean that this increase would have to be absorbed by the vehicle licence holder. Under the current recession climate this would represent a significant increase in operating expenses during what are already difficult and trying times for us all.

Could this figure be reviewed and revaluated taking this into account?

CHESHIRE C.W.

DEAR SIR,

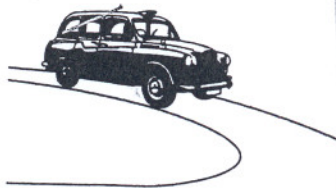
REF - YOUR LETTER REGARDING  
NEW LICENCE CONDITIONS  
(FROM MACCLESFIELD B.C.)

I WISH TO MAKE THE COMMENT  
THAT THE NEW LICENCE FEES PROPOSED,  
ARE INCREASED BY FAR TOO MUCH.

A £10 TO £15 INCREASE ON THE CURRENT  
CHARGES WOULD BE FAR BETTER, ESPECIALLY  
AS THERE ISN'T AS MUCH WORK OWING TO  
THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CLIMATE, THE  
PROPOSED INCREASES DO NOT SEEM FULLY  
JUSTIFIED.

I HOPE YOU TAKE THE ABOVE INTO  
CONSIDERATION.





19/1/2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

Any sudden increase in the cost of licence fees or to taxi fares caused by the integration of the three local authorities to form the new East Cheshire Council will be very damaging to the trade in Congleton, coming into force when the trade and many of its customers are left financially vulnerable, from the high fuel prices last year to the present recession, which has left many businesses struggling and people out of work.

It is very important that these increases are phased in gradually over two or three years period. We need to give a lot of consideration to what the public and the trade can afford during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully, \_\_\_\_\_

**I am writing to you with regard to the published increases for Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles and drivers.**

**The percentage of the increases is high, i.e. £75 increasing to £204 for drivers.**

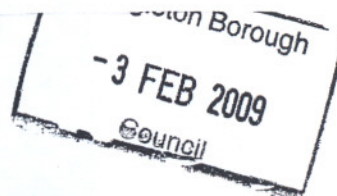
**I feel that due to the decline in trade and the current economic climate this increase is not supporting sole traders or small businesses.**

**I wait to hear from you regarding future consultation with the trade.**

**Yours truly**

31 January 2009

C/O Congleton borough council  
Westfield's  
Middlewich Road  
Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ



Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a Hackney carriage driver in Macclesfield, and I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the proposed licence fee increases, your recent discussions and your pending decision to excessively increase these fees far beyond the 4, 1% rate of inflation. I do believe that these increases are disproportionate and unfair, Please see the examples below.

- Hackney carriage drivers licence      £75.00 to £204.00 a 173% rise.
- Hackney carriage car licence      £205.00 to £300.00 a 43% rise.

How can you justify these increases, in this current economic climate it is outrageous I was told by my local licensing officer that this amount was an average based on the three zones one of which is one the most expensive in the northwest. But not only that you have also added an extra £25.00 in my opinion this is pure greed I would like you to please explain these vast increases. If the council tax went up at this rate there would be riots.

Could you also forward me a copy of the following documents, so I can read them as you request in conjunction with your letter dated 20 January 2009.

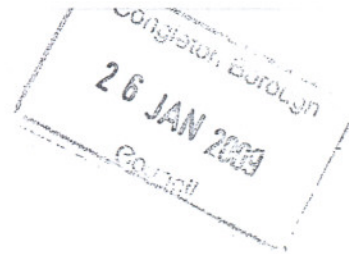
1. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
2. Town Police Clauses Act 1847
3. Transport Act 1980

Also under the freedom of information act 2000 could you please supply me the last ten years detailed fees for vehicles and drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles in the three new Cheshire east council zones (Crewe Congleton and Macclesfield).



19<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Licensing Section  
C/o Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council  
Municipal Buildings  
Earle Street  
Crewe CW1 2BJ



Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Proposed Fees -**

I have just received your letter and documents regarding the proposed fees and wish to comment thus.

As I am an interested party for Private Hire Vehicles I shall address this situation only. If you wish to increase the application fee as stated to £300.00 you should have a lesser amount for renewal fee, given that the applicant has conformed to the regulations they originally signed up for and have no outstanding grievances reported to the Council.

The test fee for vehicles over 7 years should be set at £25.00 accompanied by a bone fide M.O.T and emission statement from a recognised garage. The M.O.T. must have at least 3 months to run at the time of the test, therefore ensuring the vehicle is in good order.

With regard to such testing one would ask that a differential be made between cars and passenger/MPV vehicles due to the nature of use and the quality of the vehicles and mileage etc.

I was unsure of the figure quoted for "Private Hire Operator (five years) as this item came after the testing fees so I am unclear as to what this relates to?

My feelings are that if you make the fees reasonable in the area's mentioned you are far more likely to achieve them and have a concise picture of the vehicles and personnel operating them under your control.

Yours faithfully,



19 January 2009

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you with regard to the published increases for Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles and drivers.

In Macclesfield there have been no measures to cap the amount of drivers or cars. We do not feel it is fair to pay the same as Congleton, Crewe and Nantwich as they have some measures in place.

Also the percentage of the increases is very high, i.e. £75 increasing to £204 for drivers.

In Macclesfield the trade has on several occasions met with licensing to discuss increase in taxi spaces, capping on cars / drivers and vehicle spec amongst other issues and none have been acted on or resolved.

Therefore we feel that we do not receive a supportive service for our money now so why should we pay more?

I look forward to receiving a response from you as this matter is now urgent and needs addressing.

Kind regards



2009

LEGAL SECTION

Dear Mr Mike Jones & Mrs K Khan

I wont beat around the bush, but I am sick of being <sup>nice</sup> to people, I got your letter and thought it was a joke, "How" much money do you think taxi drivers earn, when you have been giving Taxi plates out like confetti, It's getting harder to earn money "HAVE YOU SEEN THE TAXI LANCES" you cant move for Taxis, I see all NEW EAST CHESHIRE council is just another way to rip off the Taxi drivers.

Rip Off 1, CAR TEST

I have to pay £300 for my 1st Test which has been increase of £90 (ITS A JOKE). Then my 2nd Test is only £100 why the big difference,

If this is for administrations fees like I read in the news paper that Tony Potts said, wh the big difference again in price, (NOT THE TONY POT WRITTING THIS LETTER). So could you please send me a break down of the administration so I can see what I am getting for my extra £200, Or is this Just to penalize Taxi Drivers that cant afford ne-er Taxis or wont get one on credit.



### Rip Off 2, THE BADGE

A Badge is £204 plus C.B.R. Check,  
Plus medical  
Plus Photo's

which take it up to £300 plus, I have been driving a Taxi in macclesfield for 21 yrs or more and I remember it being £10.00 when I first started, so how do you justify this

### Rip off 3 THE ZONES

If we are suppose to be one council that should mean when we pick up we should be able to do this in any area of the borough,

Zoning is your way of bailing out of making one borough, could you tell me if the macclesfield zone are going to stop giving plates out like the other two zone, may be the problem is that those that are running the Taxi Licensing office from the Town halls have never been a Taxi driver and don't understand what it's like,

So if these proposed conditions go through I shall write to my MP and parliament and the news paper, to ask why in this credit crunch cheshire East council can put these stupid increases and rules while other people are freezing prices. I did notice that the change over is the 1st of April and I am hoping that this is just a April fools joke or may be you think we are the fools.

Yours sincerely...



Mr. A.C. Lee

Licensing Section,  
% Congleton Borough Council  
Westfields  
Middlewich Road,  
Sandbach.

Dear Mr Lee,

Ref: Proposed license fees - Cheshire East

In view of the current economic situation countrywide it seems a ridiculous time to introduce financial penalties to the owners of older vehicles. Whilst the benefits of more frequent safety checks are acceptable the financial realities are costly and in my opinion victimises the small, independent businesses in the area. I object to the planned changes.

Could you please clarify who will be responsible for obtaining CRB checks, what the proposed procedure will be and who will be responsible for the costs incurred?

Do you also have an idea of the proposed costs if its expected that the individual is to be charged?

I object to the proposed changes when the costs etc have not been clearly advised.

4<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Dear Vilma,

Proposed New Licence Fees – 01-04-09

I should like to make the following observations in connection with the above.

1. The annual licence fee for a Private Hire Vehicle has increased from £230 to £300 – a rise of 34.43%. How can this be justified?
2. A Private Hire Drivers Licence for a three year term has increased from £109 to £204 – a rise of 87.16% - CRIMINAL !! This means that a prospective driver would have to pay at least £300 ( licence fee, CRB and a medical ) before he knows whether he has a job or not. How many people are likely to do that? Surely there should be a 12 month licence ( at a reasonable rate ) to begin with.



Vilma Robson  
Westfields  
Middlewich Road  
Sandbach, CW11 1HZ.

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009

Dear Ms Robson

I am in receipt of your letters regarding New Licence Conditions and Licence Fees. I realise that you are not responsible for setting the new rates and dreaming-up the new conditions but I would like to register the strongest possible objection to both fees and conditions and would be obliged if you would convey my comments to the appropriate authority.

My son and I have operated a Private Hire business in this area for the past 14+ years. We have provided an efficient, reliable and much valued service to some private individuals and, mainly, to senior executives of several large companies in South Cheshire and North Staffordshire and even abroad.

It may not have been noticed by those responsible for setting rates and conditions, but the country is currently suffering difficult trading conditions. We at AUTOCRUISE are experiencing the lowest level of business since setting-up 14 years ago. I am aware that many operators are in the same position. Welcome to CHESHIRE EAST !! What perfect timing by our new "leaders", to introduce huge rises in licence fees, having a direct impact on our running costs, when our main focus is on survival which, unless the fee increases are rescinded, we may not achieve.

As partners in the business my son and I both require to take some remuneration out of the company as do our three part time drivers. With the current down-turn in business, due largely to several of our client businesses closing down or moving abroad, we are unable to achieve even the minimum standard wage. These proposed fee increases could be the "final straw".

I hope those responsible will reconsider the proposed changes in order to ensure continuation of the excellent service provided by some of the long serving companies



Licensing Section  
Congleton Borough Council  
Westfields  
Middlewich Road  
Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ

Congl

23

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Proposed Licence Fees with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

I write in response to a letter from Mrs Khan the Principal Legal Officer on behalf of Cheshire East Council dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

The proposed fees are extortionate and unjustified in the current economic climate. Many Private Hire and Hackney Carriage are already struggling with poor trading conditions and may cease to trade as a result of the proposed increases.

The current fee for Private Hire Vehicles is £210 the proposed fee with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 is £300. This is an increase of £90 per vehicle and a percentage increase of 42.8% per licence. I currently operate 11 vehicles therefore my annual costs will increase by £990.

The current fee for Private Hire Drivers is £75 the proposed fee with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 is £204. This is an increase of £129 per driver and a percentage increase of 172.0% per licence. I currently operate with 40 drivers and because it is not seen as a major career move by many people I will pay the licence fee for both current and new drivers. (Many companies pay the licence fee for drivers) On an annual basis therefore I will pay for 30 Private Hire Drivers Licenses therefore my annual costs will increase by £3870.

I strongly object to the proposed fees for both Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Drivers because the increases are both unjustified and unaffordable.

22 January 2009

Licensing Section  
C/o Congleton Borough Council  
Westfields  
Middlewich Road  
Sandbach, Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ

Dear Sir or Madam

**Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Licensing**  
**New Proposal of Fees**

**Borough of Macclesfield**  
**Joint Driver Licence**  
**Trevor Anthony Norbury**  
**No. JD0048                      Expiry date: 21/05/2011**

I am writing to complain about the proposed increase in the licensing fees.

I feel that the previous licensing fee, along with the medical examination, which was approximately £235, is quite sufficient.

Your new proposals are going to put a lot of people out of work especially the part-time taxi drivers who will not be able to pay this excessive increase in fees that you are proposing per annum, along with the medical examination.

A lot of part-time and self-employed taxi drivers are working on a percentage and find it hard to make some sort of living on their takings which are based on 40 – 45% of what they earn.

Your proposals are going to put a lot of taxi drivers out of work with this proposed increase, as they are not earning the minimum wage as stipulated by law per hour, considering the amount of hours they have to work.

I would be grateful for a reply

Yours faithfully