

F.A.O.
Licensing Section, Cheshire East Council,
"Westfields", Middlewich Rd,
Sandbach,
Cheshire,
CW11 1HZ

21/02/2012

**RE: Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Table of Fares
Customer Objections**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Taxi Driver in Congleton and over the last few days I have asked several taxi drivers to census a view from their customers as to whether they are opposed to the recently published proposed new Taxi Tariffs in the Congleton Chronicle.

I enclose the 163 signatures we have gathered since Friday last week from customers who are opposed to the change in rates.

Please sign below if you are OPPOSED to Cheshire East Council's decision to change the "Table of Fares" for Congleton Taxis

(as published in the Congleton Chronicle on Thursday 9th February)

142 signatures

3rd February 2012

The problems with the Council's proposal to introduce Crewe's fare structure to Congleton and Macclesfield is that because Crewe's tariff 2 (night rate) is much lower than Congleton's and Macclesfield we would therefore, have to charge the full day rate to compensate for the losses on the night rate. This in Congleton would be about a 40% increase on the day rate for the first mile, which will affect some of the most vulnerable members of society, pensioners, low income families and the disabled. This increase would be on top of a 10% increase seven months ago, and this at a time of austerity! Such a dramatic change to the scale of fares would provoke arguments, which, can very quickly escalate out of control, placing taxi drivers into potentially dangerous and vulnerable situations.

In contrast the Congleton and Macclesfield rates are very similar, and could be easily harmonised. Together we our a much bigger area with larger per of head of population, and have more taxis. So therefore would cause less disruption to the Borough.

Crewe could be gradually phased in with Congleton and Macclesfield over a set period of time. With a forecasted timetable giving the dates and the amounts required, allowing the drivers and their customers time to adapt to these changes.

I understand that the Council wish to harmonise the Borough's fares quickly, and hope that the Council will also understand our concerns for stability and safety.

Yours faithfully

39 Signatures

We the undersigned are strongly against the proposed new fare changes which would result in unsustainable losses of income in an already fragile taxi trade.

We find it unacceptable to incur rate reductions during unsociable operating hours including Bank Holidays, Sundays and the Christmas period.

We urge you to maintain the current rates or at least consult with us on the matter.

NAME

SIGNATURE

BADGE No:

152 Signatures