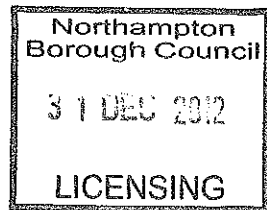


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**UK & AIRPORT TRANSFER SPECIALISTS**



Licensing Department,  
Northampton Borough Council  
St Giles Square  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

Monday 24th December 2012

Reference: Objection to increase of Private Hire Fees 2013

To whom it may concern,

I wish to inform you of my objections towards the announced fee increase for Private Hire Vehicles.

My objections include the fact that NBC hold a monopoly on Licensing PH vehicles, drivers and companies and, therefore, can increase their costs as and when decided where the only option available for an objectionable driver is to not licence themselves or vehicles. I have noted a recent increase in drivers operating illegally in the Borough for numerous reasons and feel that any increases in this current financial climate will create additional 'rogue drivers' with them safe in the knowledge that if they are caught without licences or insurance then the maximum fine is only £1,500 and is less than 12 months PH insurance.

I also feel that the time has arrived for NBC to restrict and limit the number of PH drivers in the town as the increase in drivers and companies starting up over the past few years has caused a battle for local business in an already struggling climate.

I feel very strongly that the licensed operator is an easy target for regular inspections, checks and fee increases whilst the 'rogue drivers' continue to operate freely 'under the radar'. There needs to be some kind of publicity increase concerning what a passenger or customer needs to look for to ensure their PH vehicle is licensed and also a list of licensed vehicles, drivers and companies should be readily available online for anyone to be able to access at any time.

I currently pay over £2,000 per year to keep myself, my business and my vehicle operating legally and the thought of this increasing when a fine is only £1,500 maximum does not look like an appealing option and one I am sure many people will be interested to hear, obviously if someone can operate without licences for at least 12 months (and I am aware of people having operated illegally for much longer) then the costs against fines is certainly arguable.

Many thanks for your time in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you once a date for discussion has been arranged.

Best Wishes,

Mr Dean Harris

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