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Mull Taxi Service – tel:-07760426351

To Head of Governance and law
Argyll and Bute Council
Kilmory
Lochgilphead
PA31 8RT

Your ref Amn/oct11/4558
My ref licence 3626

2nd February 2012

Dear Mr Reppke,

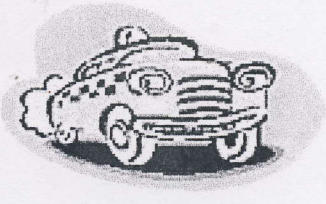
I refer to your letter dated 01 November 2011 concerning review of taxi fare scales and my reply of 6th November 2011. I understand from the local press (Oban Times) that a meeting has been held where it was decided to freeze taxi fares at their present level and review the situation in 18 months.

I can understand the freeze on current taxi fares. I and other taxi drivers have to make a living and an increase in fares might deter people from using taxis when we are all having to tighten our belts. However, I feel 18 months is too long a time to wait for a review. A review by the Council in, say, 6 or 9 months is not a commitment to an increase – just a commitment to a review. I feel taxi owners/operators/drivers would welcome a shorter timescale to the next review.

I do not know if you intend to reply to my letter of 6th November in light of your meeting – in particular, my point about taxis in remote/island areas being allowed to operate on tarrif 2 as their base rate. I feel this suggestion has some merit and I would like to know how it was received at your meeting.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Alan Robson.



MacIntyre Taxi's
Michael MacIntyre
43 Valrose Terrace
Dunoon
Argyll
PA23 7PS

TEL: 07717591812

MM/AM

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

Charles Reppke
Officer
Argyll & Bute Council
Kilmory
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8RT


Fare increase

I write in protest about the decision to refuse the taxi fare increase. Our running cost are higher than ever and they are continuing to grow believe it or not. With this we as owner drivers are being driven to the poverty line with the decision that the council made last year. we were given 20p on the flagfall on each tariff. However the 20p was already gone before we got it. this is because it was swallowed up by the increase in fuel cost and and it has continued to rise in the past months since the decision was made. when you add this all up we are paying more and more as the time passes and it will continue to go like this. having asked for a copy of the minutes of the fare review meeting what i did receive . i understand the vote was "8 - 3" in favour of no increase. i have one thing to say to those 8 councillors shame shame on you all ! . we will have to work longer to try to earn a living and sort of a decent wage. this is to try to support our families as best as possible.

i would like to think after this very poor decision is that when the fees for the licence renewals are decided this year a reduction in cost will be in enforced as the council have taken away any chance we have to earn slightly more or am i asking for too much .

finally the decision to go back to review the last 18 months is also shocking as it will put us in a very poor state as fuel has already risen by just over 9 p a gallon in Dunoon and it will be in the region of 2014 now before we see any sort of fare increase going by the very poor decision made by your councillors.

yours sincerely


Michael MacIntyre
Taxi Owner and Driver

14E Albert Lane
Oban
Argyll
PA34 5JD

28 February 2012

Argyll & Bute Council
Governance and Law
Kilmory
Lochgilphead
PA31 8RT

FAO: Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law

Dear Sir

I am an owner operator taxi driver working under the umbrella of an existing taxi company in Oban.

I am writing to express my concern at article in the Oban Times, which stated that the taxi tariff in Oban would be frozen until 2013.

At present as everyone is aware money is tight and as a consequence drivers are being asked to forgo an increase in fares until 2013 as outlined in the article.

I would suggest that instead of increasing the base tariff, the Council should decrease the yardage. At present with a 20p increase on the basic tariff, the cost of taking a client to Glasgow Airport would only be increased by 20p. However, if a decrease on the yardage were introduced it would mean the drivers would get a better return per journey.

As we are all aware the Government will no doubt increase the price of fuel at least once if not more than once in the 18 month period before the next review of taxi fares, consequently, I therefore state that I oppose the freezing of taxi fares in Oban.

~~Yours faithfully~~


Malcolm Robertson

Taxi Owners And Drivers association of Dunoon

21st February 2012

Dear Argyll and Bute Council,

I am writing as Chairman of the Taxi Owners and Drivers Association of Dunoon.

The Association has asked me to write a letter of appeal and objection to the council's recent decision to deny the Taxis a fare increase and to extend the next application time to 18month.

The council awarded the Taxis a fare increase of 20p on the flag drop last year which has meant that pensioners and families taking short journeys home with shopping have seen an increase of 8% in their fares but those that take longer journeys, therefore using more fuel, have seen an increase of 1% or less in their fare.


The last true fare increase on the rolling mile was given in 2009. At that time the cost of fuel in March was, Diesel 100.1 per litre ; Petrol 96.1 per litre and in December 2009 Diesel 110.2 per litre ; Petrol 107.6 per litre. (Figures from the AA fuel report 2000 to 2010.) As the Council will be aware fuel prices in Dunoon tend to be marginally higher than the national average and presently, are diesel 142.9 per litre and petrol 138.9 per litre. This is a 42% increase in fuel prices since the last fare rise. Given that it could be a further 2 years before the next fare increase is enacted that would see a predicted price of Diesel 170 per litre and Petrol at 156 per litre, which would start to make life as a taxi owner/operator become unsustainable. Fuel is the single largest bill that taxi owners have to deal with and we feel we are not being greedy or excessive in asking for the 'rolling mile' to rise to £2.00 per mile and we would ask the flag drop distance to increase to 880yds.

We, in Dunoon, understand that Helensburgh is anxious not to have an increase as they have competition from the surrounding towns and cities. Dunoon, Oban, Campbeltown and other Argyll villages and towns do not have those issues and are paying prime rates for fuel. Helensburgh should be considered separately when dealing with fare increases as it feels that appeasing one city will punish the rest of Argyll and Bute Taxis.

This fare increase is needed by us to cover the ever increasing cost of fuel and not to improve but just to maintain our present standard of living.

I have enclosed signed sheets from association members in agreement with this letter.

Yours Sincerely



Michael McIntyre
Chairman T.O.A.D association Dunoon

