



Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter

July 2016

Request for Taxi Fare Increase

Stroud Taxi Association have submitted a proposal to increase taxi fares. The proposal has been signed by 32 Stroud District taxi drivers.

Taxi fares are set by the Council. It is the rate that the taxi meters must be set at and is the maximum fare that can be charged. The current taxi fares were set in 2011. The Council does not set the fares for private hire vehicles.

The proposal will be considered by the Community Services and Licensing Committee at their next meeting on 8th September 2016 at 19.00 at the Council Offices. At the meeting the Committee can agree, amend or refuse the proposal. Once the Committee has made a decision the Council must put a public notice in a newspaper and ask for comment from the public.

I have enclosed the proposal by the Taxi Association with this newsletter. I have also enclosed a comparison table showing current taxi fares in Gloucestershire.

If you have any objections to the proposal or you wish to offer any alternatives please email your comments to licensing@stroud.gov.uk or put them in writing and hand in or post to the Licensing Team. Any comments must be received by **12th August 2016** so that the Committee can be made aware of the views of the taxi trade.

Licensing Team

Welcome to Hannah

We have a new Licensing team member, Hannah Eaton, who joined us in February 2016. Hannah has taken over from Shelley Coles who left the team last year to work in another section of the Council.

The Licensing Team are:

Rachel Andrew	01453 754401
Hannah Eaton	01453 754404
Claire Powell	01453 754440
Email	licensing@stroud.gov.uk

Please remember that if you want to see a member of the team to ring first to make an appointment. The team are not available on Thursday afternoons after 12.00.

Expired MOTs

We have been making some ad hoc checks on the GOV.UK website and we found that several of our licensed taxis and private hire vehicles did not have current MOTs. This is obviously an offence under road traffic legislation and, because an MOT tests safety aspects of a vehicle, it also means that passengers are put at risk.

Reminder: Stroud District Council's policy is that all taxis and private hire vehicles must have an annual MOT once they are 1 year old or over.

Badges

Hannah went out with the Police last month and they stopped some licensed vehicles. A couple had light bulbs not working and several were not displaying badges correctly

Reminder: Stroud District Council's policy states that all drivers should display 2 badges:

- One badge should be worn on the driver using a clip or lanyard
 - The second badge should be displayed in the vehicle on the dash on the passenger side
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Review of Taxi and Private Hire Policy 2016

The booklet called 'Stroud District Council Taxi and Private Hire Information, Policy and Conditions' contains a wide range of information including our policy on making applications and renewals, vehicle conditions, convictions policy and guidance on taxi and private hire legislation. It is available on our website <http://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis-and-private-hire-licensing> or you can ask us to provide you with a hard copy.

Rachel is currently making some amendments to the policy to take account of some changes in national best practice. She will be writing to you again with details of proposed changes and you will be given opportunity to make comments about any aspect of the document before it goes to Committee towards the end of the year.

Sub Contracting

The legislation has changed under the Deregulation Act 2015. Previously private hire operators could only subcontract work to another operator licensed by the same district Council. Now you can subcontract to another operator licensed by any district Council.

Contact us at:

The Licensing Section, Environmental Health Service, Stroud District Council, Council Offices, Ebley Wharf, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4UB Telephone: 01453 754404 / 754440 Email: licensing@stroud.gov.uk