

## Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter January 2018

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### New Taxi Fares Start 1 February 2018

The public consultation period has now ended. There were no further comments so the fare increase for taxis approved by Committee will start **from 1 February 2018**.

We have contacted the meter fitters and given them the new fare structure. They can update meters from 1 February 2018 onwards. If you are a taxi owner please contact your meter fitter at your convenience and arrange an appointment. Your meter fitter should give you a certificate to show that your meter has been set to the new rates which you will need to forward to us.

Remember that the new fares are the maximum that you can charge. You can continue to operate your taxi on the old rates after 1 February 2018 until you are able to get the meter updated.

We are posting new fare cards to all hackney carriage vehicle licence holders. Once the meter is updated you should take out the old fare card out of the vehicle and replace it with the new one.

The new fares are also on our website [www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis-and-private-hire/licensing/taxi-fares](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis-and-private-hire/licensing/taxi-fares)

If you use a manual meter don't forget that the **times for the rates are changing**. The new start time for rate 1 is 06:00 between Monday and Friday. On the weekend and bank holidays rate 1 still starts at 07:00. Rate 3 will now always start at midnight.

#### New Taxi Rate Times from 1 February 2018

	Rate 1	Rate 2	Rate 3
Monday to Friday	06:00 - 18:00	18:00 - 24:00	24:00 - 06:00
Saturday	07:00 - 13:00	13:00 - 24:00	24:00 - 07:00
Sunday and Bank Holidays		07:00 - 24:00	24:00 - 07:00
Christmas			12:00 24th Dec - 07:00 27th Dec
New year			12:00 31st Dec - 07:00 2nd Dec

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## A couple of reminders for taxi drivers.....

### Roof signs

Stroud policy is that hackney carriage vehicles must display the roof sign at **all times**. Even if you are not working from the rank you should still have the roof sign on. This includes when you are doing work that is pre-booked.

### Larger vehicles

The taxi fare card rates apply to all size hackney carriage vehicles.

Even if you are driving a 6 or 8 seater you can not add an extra amount to the fare apart from adding an extra 20p for each passenger over one.

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## And some general reminders for taxis and private hires.....

### Vehicle age policy and grandfather rights on renewal

Under grandfather rights you can continue to renew existing vehicles that are over 10 years old up until 1 April 2019. From this date if your vehicle is over 10 years old you will need to change it for a vehicle that is under 5 years old before your next renewal is due.

### Vehicle age policy and exempt vehicles

Stroud policy allows an exemption from the age policy for elite vehicles. Last year we gave you a list of the type of vehicle that we consider elite which include Audi A7 and A8, BMW 5 series (2010 onwards) BMW 7 series, Jaguar XJ and XF, Mercedes Benz E and S class and Rolls Royce. To be entitled to the exemption the elite vehicle must be in excellent condition and each vehicle will be considered on its own merits.

### MOTs

We regularly check the Government website [www.check-mot.service.gov.uk](http://www.check-mot.service.gov.uk) to make sure that our licensed taxi and private hire vehicles have current MOTs. We are finding that some do not and that vehicle owners are forgetting when they are due. Make sure you make a note of when your MOT expires. It may not always be the same time as your Vehicle Council Test. Also remember that Stroud policy is that taxis and private hire vehicles need an annual MOT once they are **one** year old and over.

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## Contact Us:

If you want to come in and see us please ring and make an appointment first. We are not available for calls or appointments on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons after 12.00. You can also contact us by email.

Telephone: 01453 754440 Email: [licensing@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@stroud.gov.uk) Web: [www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis)