

## REPORT TO BUSINESS SERVICES LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 10 FEBRUARY 2023

### REVIEW OF CIVIC GOVERNMENT LICENSING FEES

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 places on local authorities a requirement that all costs associated with providing the licensing service be met from licensing income. Civic licensing fees can be set at the discretion of the local authority, taking into account the costs of providing the licensing service, with no maximum or minimum fee. This report sets out the responses to the consultation on the proposed fees as agreed by the Sub-Committee and seeks approval of an increase in the licensing fees as set out in **Appendix 1**.

#### 1.2 The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

**1.2.1 Acknowledge the public consultation carried out between 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023, with the extended time added as narrated in the report and the anonymised responses included at Appendix 2 to this report;**

**1.2.2 Consider and comment on the summary of consultation responses contained within this report as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report;**

**1.2.3 Acknowledge that the legislation requires the licensing service to be financially self-sustaining and that fees should be based on full cost recovery;**

**1.2.4 Note that Fleet Services will no longer print paper MOT certificates as operators can access them online and so the proposal to charge for this service has been removed from the proposals; and**

**1.2.5 Agree to increase the fees charged for the licence application types as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.**

#### 2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 The fees were last reviewed between December 2019 to February 2020 with changes implemented from April 2020 which included an inflationary increase in fees on an annual basis from 1<sup>st</sup> April. In accordance with the Corporate Charging Policy, charges must be reviewed every 3 years therefore it is

appropriate that the fees are reviewed by the Sub-Committee at this time. It is also appropriate to ensure that all costs associated with providing the licensing service are met from licensing income on a regular basis. By way of background, an in-depth review was carried out in 2017 and substantial changes were made at that time as there had not been a review for some time. The 2020 review made much smaller amendments. Given that inflation has been applied on a yearly basis, most fees do not require substantial amendment although some amendments are recommended to ensure that costs are covered.

- 2.2 At the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, the Sub-Committee initiated a public consultation on the proposed fees for Civic Government and miscellaneous Licensing to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 (Item 5). This [report](#) sets out the outcome of the consultation and proposed fees for adoption from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 for consideration.

### **3 Discussion**

- 3.1 The public consultation took place from the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023. There is no statutory obligation for the licensing service to consult with licence holders, or potential applicants, on the proposed fees. However, given the potential impact that amending the level of fees has, the details of the consultation were made available on the website and were shared on social media. Only 7 responses were received which is unusual for this type of consultation. It was then discovered that a technical error had meant that licence holders had not directly been informed of the consultation although it had been circulated on social media. An email was sent to all civic licence holders for whom we have an email address for and the consultation period was extended to give a further week to respond. Although this is a much shorter time period than what usually would be given to licence holders to respond, over 125 were able to provide a response in that time which gives a reflection of the views of the licensed trade. The reason for the short timescale was to ensure that the fees and fares could be considered at the same meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee as this had been a comment made on the fares review and is directly relevant to one of the objections made in that regard. Council officers are grateful to those who provided a response in such a short timescale and apologise for any inconvenience that the short timescale caused. The views of licence holders are helpful to make an informed decision; however, ultimately the Sub-Committee must reach a decision which allows the licensing service to meet its costs from licensing income as detailed in paragraph 3.3.
- 3.2 The report presented to the Sub-Committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 (Item 5) explained the mechanism for calculating the proposed fees and included comparisons across Scotland. The report in December also set out some of the

measures implemented by the licensing team to reduce costs and this has balanced some additional requirements required by law and has meant that the proposed fees are not as high as they otherwise could have been. This report analyses the responses to the public consultation on the proposed fees. The full responses are set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.

- 3.3 The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 places on local authorities a duty to ensure that the income must be sufficient to meet the expenses incurred in providing the licensing service. The requirement is that the total costs for the licensing function be met from the total licensing income. Licensing income is comprised exclusively from the fees that are charged by the licensing authority. Civic licensing fees can be set at the discretion of the local authority, taking into account the costs of providing the licensing service; there is no maximum or minimum fees.
- 3.4 It is worth noting that the work of the licensing service includes work in reviewing fees, conditions, consultations and analysis of responses, policies, guidance notes, updating the web content, responding to queries and providing guidance to applicants as well as costs involved in determining applications including committee meetings. These are legitimate licensing functions and the income must cover these functions in addition to the processing and determination of licences.
- 3.5 135 responses were made to the consultation, 125 of which were made by licence holders or potential applicants and 7 by members of the public with 3 not providing detail. The consultation was split between taxi and private hire fees and other civic and miscellaneous fees. For those licence types where comments were specifically mentioned, a summary is provided below along with comments from officers.

### **Private Hire/Taxi**

- 3.6 58 respondents answered this question with 77 choosing not to. The first question asked for comments on the proposed fees for taxi and private hire licences. There is a comment about the fact that the fees have risen on an annual basis for the last 5 years following a period of stagnant fees. There had been a long period of time where the fees had not increased; however, following a review, fees were increased to ensure full cost recovery of the licensing service and have increased in line with this Sub-Committee's decisions since, either by inflationary amounts on an annual basis or at review every 3 years. It is important to make clear that the costs of the service are under constant review and the move to online applications for the taxi and private hire trade has certainly improved efficiency however until all users, or the majority of users use this

system, the full cost benefits will not be realised. The system has had some issues in the last year due to technical issues with the payment system and much work has been done to resolve these issues by our finance and IT teams.

- 3.7 There are also comments expressing concern as to the rise in fees as the taxi trade is struggling and still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic as well as the high energy, grocery and insurance costs. There are also comments that there are falling numbers of customers due to the cost of living increasing with most having less disposable income, which has an impact on the trade. There are some comments that the fare increase is welcome but will not have an impact due to the higher fees.
- 3.8 There seems to be some confusion, evidenced in some of the responses, within the trade that the proposed fare increase as consulted on has been refused, however this is not the case. The decision on the proposals was delayed due to objections being received, as is their right to do so and that matter is also on the agenda as presented to the Sub-Committee today. There are comments expressing that if the fares do not increase, then neither should the fees.
- 3.9 There are other comments saying that the increase is a barrier to those becoming drivers, and for those who perhaps only do a school run, it is quite an increase and would make them reconsider applying for renewals.
- 3.10 There are others who have commented, saying that the proposals are reasonable given that the Council will be facing the same increase in costs and that the proposals look fair.
- 3.11 The next question in the survey focused on the proposal to charge for the certification for the MOT and there were 48 responses, with 87 choosing not to answer. It should be made clear that there is no change to how Fleet Services provide the taxi tests. These tests are not MOTs with extras as it seems to be understood, but a taxi test, to the standards agreed by this Sub-Committee and the elements of an MOT are covered by the test. It is the operators' responsibility to ensure their vehicles pass an MOT, not the licensing authority's. That being said, there is a general disagreement and a lot of concern expressed about the proposal. The respondents considered that the proposed charge is too excessive. There is a suggestion that the Council should adopt a more environmentally friendly approach and cut out unnecessary paperwork. This aligns with the service desire to increase sustainability therefore Fleet Services will no longer print MOT certificates during taxi and private hire vehicle testing as operators can access the certificate online and can print from there should they wish. It is therefore proposed that the proposed charge of £25 for the MOT certificate is removed from the list of fees and is not proceeded with.

- 3.12 There is a comment that inflation should be across the board and that if fees are increasing, then fares should also increase. There is a proposal to increase the fares by 10% being debated by this Sub-Committee at this meeting. Some of the increases are higher than inflation but they are matched to the increasing cost of processing licences as explained in the December 2022 report. For those where inflation is being added, it is a rate, as notified by the Head of Finance at 5.9%.

### **Other Licence types**

- 3.13 57 respondents replied to this section, with 78 skipping. This question focused on other civic government licensing. Where licence types have been mentioned, they have been summarised below. There are mixed comments on this issue, some think that the proposals are too high, but most comments reflect that the proposals are reasonable.

### **Street Traders**

- 3.14 There are comments regarding the costs of the street trader employee costs being high when some of those applying for these are young and are only in the role for a few months before moving on and so it is expensive. There is a suggestion that they should have a month's trial before requiring a licence. Unfortunately, the legislation is clear that a licence is required for employees and there is no trial period permitted in the legislation. Only an inflationary increase is proposed for the employee street trader licence.

### **Window Cleaners**

- 3.15 There are some comments about why window cleaners require to have a licence when other trades with similar access to properties do not. Window cleaning is an optional activity to be licensed and Aberdeenshire Council as licensing authority determined some time ago that window cleaners should be licensed. There is a value to public safety in ensuring that those with access to properties are licensed. There are also some comments about the length of licence and extending these to 5 years rather than 3. The statutory maximum, however, is 3 years and so this is not something that can be supported. There is also a comment made on unlicensed window cleaners in South Aberdeenshire which will be investigated by the civic Licensing Standards Officers. There has been a delay in issuing badges for window cleaners. Officers were not permitted into the office until August last year and there is a backlog of badges to be issued which are being worked on and are being issued as resource permits but it is recognised as being a priority for the service. The proposed fee is one of the lowest in Scotland and is reasonable as well as covering the costs of the licence.

## **Market Operators**

- 3.16 There is a comment specifically relating to Market Operators that the fees should be reduced to make town centres a more attractive/affordable place for independent traders and that this would mean increased footfall for other businesses. There are often issues with the submission of applications for market operator licences and are not always submitted with all the required information and there is increased work in liaising with the applicant and statutory consultees which drives up the time spent on applications; therefore, the costs also increase. The increased proposal for market operators, to £275, is still among the lowest in Scotland and is not considered unreasonable.

## **Public Entertainment Licences**

- 3.17 An inflationary increase is proposed for Public Entertainment licences as there is a review due of these licence types and fees will form part of that review. This is due to start in summer 2024.

## **Miscellaneous Licences**

- 3.18 Miscellaneous Licences cover hypnotist licences, venison dealers, cinemas, and zoos. There are mixed responses, some commenting that the proposals are fair and reasonable, whereas others comment on the large increase in percentage terms. These fees have not been reviewed for some time which is why the increase is larger than for some others. These fall under different legislation than the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. It is appropriate that these fees cover the costs of processing if applications are received.

## **Inflationary increases**

- 3.19 For the last 6 years, inflationary increases have been added every year to ensure that the costs of delivering the licensing service are covered by incremental increases. This ensures that at review, which in Aberdeenshire is every 3 years in line with the corporate charging policy, is not as high as could otherwise have been. This is a proportionate way of managing the fee increases, ensuring that the licensing service covers its costs by way of fees but also ensures that there are no additional costs from annual full reviews, from increased officer time and consultation, reporting and consideration, are not also an additional factor to add to fees. There is a comment that there is a legislative requirement to do an annual check, this is not the case –the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 places on local authorities a duty to ensure that the income must be sufficient to meet the expenses incurred in providing the licensing service. The requirement is

that the total costs for the licensing function be met from the total licensing income. This is managed in line with the corporate charging policy in Aberdeenshire which ensures a managed process to review the fees on a regular basis which is proportionate.

### 3.20 Variations of Licences and Temporary Licences

Since the introduction of the civic licensing standards officers who have been out visiting licence holders, there has been an increase in variation applications. The current charge for such an application is £25. It is proposed to increase this to £30. Any application for a temporary licence will be charged at the same rate as a full licence as the work that is required is the same regardless of the length of time of the licence.

### 3.21 Proposed Fees

The fees as consulted on are based on full cost recovery and given the low response rate, and the agreement on most of the proposals, the Sub-Committee is recommended to agree to increase the proposals from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April in line with **Appendix 2**.

## 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

### 4.1

Pillar	Priority
Our People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning for Life</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> </ul>
Our Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Resilient Communities</li> </ul>
Our Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Growth</li> <li>• Infrastructure and public assets</li> </ul>

Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.

This report supports the strategic priority “Economic Growth” within the Pillar “Our Economy” ensuring that the licensing service is able to provide a service to applicants to then enable them to contribute to the economy.

- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	x		
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	X - an IIA is linked as was previously presented to Committee in December 2022.		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		x	
Climate Change and Sustainability		x	
Health and Wellbeing		x	
Town Centre First		x	

- 4.3 The financial implications are implicit in the report and the proposals aim to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations by ensuring the cost of the licensing service is recovered through fees.
- 4.4 An integrated impact assessment (IIA) was previously carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above ahead of the report brought to the Sub-Committee on the [2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022](#). A copy can be found by following the link. The IIA details that there may be an impact on those with low income or low wealth, but this is mitigated because of the way the fees are calculated accurately which ensures that they are as close to covering costs as possible which is our statutory duty. Following consultation, the recommendations of Officers have not changed in such a way which affects the potential impacts of the proposals and as such, the IIA remains reflective of the current position.
- 4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

*ACORP001 – Budget Pressures [Corporate Risk Register](#).*

## 5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.



5.2 The Sub-Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of section C1.1. of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance which enables the Business Services Committee and its Licensing Sub-Committee to decide on all policy issues and resource matters relating to licensing other than liquor licensing.

**Ritchie Johnson**  
**Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by Lauren Cowie, Principal Solicitor (Governance)  
Date 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Proposed New Fees and National Comparison – from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023  
Appendix 2 – Consultation Responses - Civic Licensing Fees

Licence Type	Current Fee	Costs	Proposed Fee	Scottish Wide - Comparison		
				Sample Size*	Proposed Fee	MEAN Average
<b>Taxi and PHC Licences</b>						
Taxi / PHC Drivers (3 Year)	£128.00	£133.15	<b>£135.00</b>	Compared: 27	26 <sup>th</sup>	£214.21
Taxi / PHC Vehicles (1 Year)	£261.00	£268.88	<b>£270.00</b>	Compared: 27	10 <sup>th</sup>	£250.00
Taxi / PHC Vehicle (3 Year)	N/A	£543.88	<b>£545.00</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Failure to Notify of Change of Vehicle less than 24 hours notice	£0.00	£15.00	<b>£15.00</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Failure to attend test or less than 24 hours notice	£55.00	£55.00	<b>£55.00</b>			
Taxi / PHC Vehicle Substitution (At Test)	£32.00 + £10 plate	£34.32 (exl plate)	<b>£35.00 + £10.00 plate</b>	Compared: 20	20 <sup>th</sup>	£90.88
Taxi / PHC Vehicle Substitution (Other)	£101.00 + £10 plate	£107.50	<b>£108.00 + £10.00 plate?</b> This fee includes £55.00 which is payable to the garage.	Compared: 23	11 <sup>th</sup>	£90.88
Taxi Booking Office (3 Year)	£139.00	£167.37	<b>£170.00</b>	Compared: 24	23 <sup>rd</sup>	£542.25
<b>Public Entertainment Licences</b>						
<b>Full Rates</b>						
PEL Halls	£99.00	-	<b>£105.00</b>	No direct comparison of our fees is available.		
PEL Fairground / Circuses	£151.00	-	<b>£160.00</b>			
PEL 1 Year and Small Event	£208.00	-	<b>£220.00</b>			
PEL 3 Years	£411.00	-	<b>£435.00</b>			

PEL Large Complex Event	£821.00	-	<b>£870.00</b>	Item: 4 Page: 20		
Discounted Rate – Charities and Voluntary Organisations						
PEL Halls	£96.00	-	<b>£102.00</b>	No direct comparison of our fees is available. The rise in our PEL fees is based on inflation and amounts to a 5.9% increase.		
PEL 1 Year and Small Event	£101.00	-	<b>£107.00</b>			
PEL 3 Years	£106.00	-	<b>£112.00</b>			
PEL Large Complex Event	£213.50	-	<b>£226.00</b>			
Other Civic Licences						
Boat Hirer Licence (3 Year)	£256.00	-	<b>£271.00</b>	Compared: 13	8 <sup>th</sup>	£420.50
		No change other than inflationary rise				
Knife Dealers Licence (3 Year)	£233.00	£243.00	<b>£250.00</b>	Compared: 26	22 <sup>nd</sup>	£500.00
Late Hours Catering (3 Year)	£186.00	£208.83	<b>£210.00</b>	Compared: 28	25 <sup>th</sup>	£476.54
Market Operators Licence (3 Year)	£234.00	£271.69	<b>£275.00</b>	Compared 28	27 <sup>th</sup>	£538.40
Metal Dealers Licence (3 Year)	£154.00	£179.51	<b>£180.00</b>	Compared: 27	29 <sup>th</sup>	£384.41
Metal Dealers Licence (Itinerant) (3 Year)	£154.00	£179.51	<b>£180.00</b>	Compared: 27	25 <sup>th</sup>	£384.41
Second Hand Dealers Licence (3 Year)	£154.00	£158.00	<b>£160.00</b>	Compared: 29	28 <sup>th</sup>	£394.00
Street Traders Licence – Static (3 Year)	£207.00	£247.72	<b>£250.00</b>	Compared: 30	27 <sup>th</sup>	£335.00
Street Traders Licence – Mobile (3 Year)	£207.00	£247.72	<b>£250.00</b>	Compared: 30	25 <sup>th</sup>	£335.00
Street Traders Licence – Employee (3 Year)	£181.00	£180.00	<b>£192.00</b>	Compared: 10	4 <sup>th</sup>	£163.39
			No change other than inflationary rise			
Window Cleaners Licence (3 Year)	£96.00	£130.37	<b>£135.00</b>	Compared: 25	23 <sup>rd</sup>	£210

Sex Shop Licences	£233.00	£290.22	<b>£295.00</b>	Compared: 10	10th	Item: 4 £3,367 Page: 21
Sexual Entertainment Licences	Nil	£446.00	<b>£450.00</b>	Compared 3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	No direct comparison available
Civic Government Variations	£25	£28.50	<b>£30</b>			No direct comparison available
<b>Miscellaneous Licences</b>						
Cinemas	£30.00	£95.85	<b>£99.00</b>			£269.78
Venison Dealers	£30.00	£105.81	<b>£110.00</b>			£738.00
Hypnotists	Nil	£104.50	<b>£105.00</b>			No direct comparison available.
Zoo licences	£300 new £200 renewal	£321.00 (both new and renewal)	<b>£325.00</b>			

# Civic Licensing Fees (not alcohol)

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

04 February 2021 - 25 January 2023

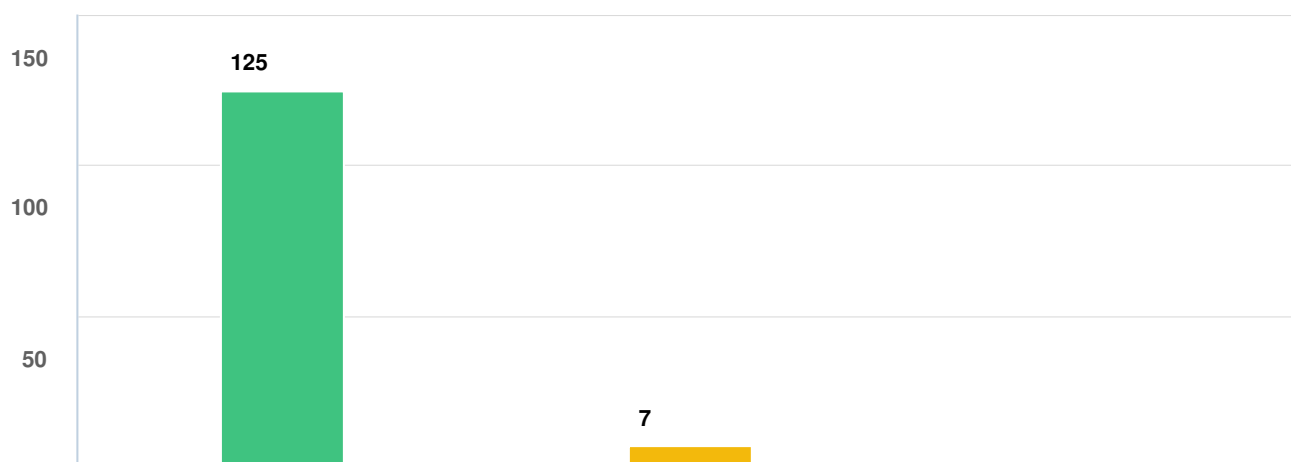
### **PROJECT NAME:**

Review of Licensing Fees (not alcohol)



SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** Aberdeenshire Council is consulting on proposed amendments to the fees chargeable for applications for certain licences und...



**Question options**

- Licence holder or potential applicant
- Member of the public
- Statutory Consultee

*Optional question (132 response(s), 3 skipped)*  
*Question type: Checkbox Question*

**Q2 | Please provide any comments on the proposed fees for the taxi and private hire licences?**

Anonymous

12/09/2022 05:12 PM

I agree

Anonymous

12/21/2022 01:38 PM

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE - THIS ANSWER REFERS TO QUESTION 3 REGARDING THE PLAN TO CHARGE £25 for MoT TEST CERTIFICATES\*\*\* To charge a £25 for the MoT certificate is absolutely ridiculous. When someone has a normal MoT in the UK, the test certificate HAS to be provided and it is part of the test fee. How can you justify charging such an unreasonable amount for an A4 page that can be printed off in seconds. There is no way it costs this much. Anyone who loses a test certificate can access them for free online providing you have the document reference number from the most recent V5C. I would be very interested in seeing the breakdown of how you have arrived at such an unrealistic figure of £25. I think this is totally unfair and unnecessary and we certainly won't be paying £25 for a test certificate. This seems like another plan that just hasn't been thought through properly. Operators and drivers are losing faith rapidly in the Aberdeenshire licensing system and I can see the amount of licences diminishing considerably in the months and years to come. Given the current economic climate and difficulties facing so many businesses, the Council should be supporting the trade. To charge £25 for the test fee is scandalous. Are you saying that if we choose not to pay the £25, we have to then go and get the vehicle MoT tested elsewhere? You clearly haven't thought this through properly. When our annual tests are due, we will be handing back our plates.

Anonymous

12/23/2022 01:26 PM

These charges have risen over 300 percent in the last five years, for which there is no justification. Charging £25.00 for a MOT certificate would take the charge for the MOT beyond the statutory maximum.

Anonymous

12/23/2022 05:57 PM

These fees seem to be climbing and climbing constantly. They were stagnant for many years and was a very long time £150 per vehicle license and £40 for the driver. It seems you are trying to claw back costs I've previous years which is wrong. These license costs are supposed to be run not for profit but these figures are clearly money making as there is no way the cost to do some of the costs equates to anything close to these values. The £25 to have mot certificate printed is utter nonsense. It is not required as everything for DVSA and DVLA is online nowadays so it complete profiteering and simply



greedy. The taxi trade along with many others is struggling and still recovering from covid times so to hit us with growing costs and with a tiny proposal of fare increase is giving in one hand and robbing it back with the other so it's pointless.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:47 PM

Has it really gone up this much in real terms? The badge fee was £40 in 2015. Now £135?

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:47 PM

We are struggling enough with extreme energy bill and grocery costs, insurance costs are through the roof. And our meter fares haven't been increased at all, let alone in line with inflation. Please do not increase our licensing fees

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:53 PM

Keep it same as you chasing people away from being taxi drivers

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:54 PM

For school taxi drivers who only do school runs this is quite a hike in the fee Will make me think twice about reapplying

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:57 PM

This is a total disgrace. We were refused our payrise recently even though fuel is at an all time high and cost of living is going through the roof and the council decide to put the fees up yet again. Very poorly timed decision

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:57 PM

It's very difficult just now because of the cost of living crisis just after a pandemic especially taken into consideration the tike couldn't take customers because of the pandemic but still gad to pay fees

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:58 PM

I don't see why the need to up the price it's already ridiculous

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:06 PM

How can it possibly cost the amounts stated above?drivers badges cost me photos & still got no badge £25 for a mot certificate?? seriously?

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:08 PM

seems fair

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:14 PM

Taxi drivers are already struggling with higher costs of living and fuel costs. As well as falling numbers of customers. Although this increase

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is fairly small. I can't imagine any drivers being particularly happy about an increase.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:15 PM

Why should they go up you can't even provide proper taxi badges the price should be coming down

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:22 PM

Can you break down the individual charges for the taxi test costing £270 please?

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:26 PM

Don't care

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:28 PM

Don't see any issue

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:30 PM

n/a

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:39 PM

N/A

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:50 PM

Not unreasonable given costs - although it might be useful to break down how costs are calculated. for the vehicle licences as they are not insignificant

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:12 PM

Acceptable

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:42 PM

THE PROPOSED FEE COSTS ARE BECOMING UNAFFORDABLE FOR OPERATORS. THE COUNCIL ARE FULLY RELIANT ON TAXI OPERATORS/DRIVERS TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE A BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOU WORK OUT THE COUNCIL COSTS FOR EACH PROPOSED FEE.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:45 PM

N/A for me

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:57 PM

Its ok BUT I feel the taxi booking office licence is a complete waste of time, why do you need a licence to accept a phone call - crazy

Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:07 PM	Think the fees are high enough as it is Difficult enough making a living without this increase and find your processing fees unbelievably high
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:15 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:15 PM	Can't believe how much it has gone up since I last renewed my taxi badge
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:30 PM	My observation is that costs to process these licenses and/or applications should be reviewed. They do seem to be remarkably high.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:30 PM	no comments
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:38 PM	This is no applicable to me.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:59 PM	There should be no increase,you have not raised fares in line with cost of living crisis so why should drivers and operators be expected to pay more
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:09 PM	absolute nonsense
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:15 PM	N/a
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:19 PM	The proposed £25 fee for the MoT certificate is far too much.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:31 PM	money could be saved by cutting down on the types of licences that are issued and by cutting admin costs
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:32 PM	If your administration cost is that high should maybe look at out sourcing the work as paid for my last license and still not received a proper wallet license which is unbelievable.

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 05:33 PM  
Give with one hand and take with the other - you heed to show how it costs over £130 to issue a taxi licence!

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 05:37 PM  
These look fair.

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 05:38 PM  
NONE

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 06:07 PM  
None

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 06:10 PM  
The consultation survey for these proposals has only allowed one week for participants to complete. A far more sensible approach would have been for you to afford licence holders an adequate period of time to complete as one week is far too short. Some people could be ill or be away. It said online that the survey had been launched on 6th December 2022 with a deadline of 6th January 2023 which would have given operators a whole month to complete. Given the technical fault and the fact that operators were not informed, the consultation survey deadline should be extended much further beyond 25th January to give them enough time to complete. Why can licensing not extend the survey and just postpone putting this proposal until a Committee meeting later on in the year. It all seems very rushed and it is important that licences holders are duly informed and they have enough time to participate.

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 07:33 PM  
I lost my taxi part time job because of covid I keep my license live as a back up in uncertain times £150 is a lot to pay for something that I may not use

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 07:56 PM  
None

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 08:24 PM  
No comment

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 08:51 PM  
Prices should be held for the time being

Anonymous  
Far too expensive!

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1/18/2023 09:13 PM

Anonymous Everything goes up in price.

1/18/2023 09:26 PM

Anonymous N/A

1/18/2023 10:02 PM

Anonymous Not relevant for me

1/19/2023 09:57 AM

Anonymous Bad idea - can only mean an increase to fares. Taxis must already be struggling with increased costs of fuel and insurance.

1/19/2023 11:05 AM

Anonymous the cost increase for drivers & vehicle licences are reasonable given the current financial climate. however its insane to charge £270 when the MOT element is set at

1/19/2023 11:50 AM

Anonymous NA

1/19/2023 02:05 PM

Anonymous N/A

1/19/2023 03:47 PM

Anonymous This looks fair.

1/20/2023 07:57 AM

Anonymous No comment

1/21/2023 02:27 PM

Anonymous The increase in fees would appear to be quite fair considering the rising cost of living.

1/22/2023 06:24 PM

Anonymous N/A

1/25/2023 08:11 PM

**Optional question** (58 response(s), 77 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

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**Q3** Currently the annual test that is done is to a higher standard than an MOT and MOT

**certificates have been provided free of charge as part of the test. If the proposal, which is to charge £25 for the certificate, is adopted, operators would have a choice as to whether to obtain the certification from the Council as part of the test or they can obtain a certificate from another garage and present it to the Council when the car is presented for test. Certificates from other garages must be dated within one month of being presented to the Council garage. Do you have any comments on this proposal?**

Anonymous

12/21/2022 01:38 PM

Please see above - my answer is above at Q2 for the plan to charge £25 for the MoT certificate

Anonymous

12/23/2022 01:26 PM

This is a change of narrative to suit the argument. I have been present at hundreds of Taxi MOT's and in every instance it is a MOT with the higher Hackney standards applied along side ( this is confirmed by conversation with examiners). The MOT is a legal requirement with its standards laid down nationally when the examiners engage in that test it takes legal priority and is not an extra fitted in alongside an Hackney test

Anonymous

12/23/2022 05:57 PM

It is not needed as mot is logged electronically so we should adopt more environmental friendly approach and cut the unnecessary paperwork. All we really care about is it passed and away we go.

Anonymous

12/27/2022 10:11 AM

We do not agree with this proposal. To charge £25 for the certificate is far too excessive as it does not cost this much to print. We can print the test certificates online completely free. If we refuse to pay the £25 we have to go to another garage to get a full MoT which you know will cost more so you are effectively forcing us into paying the £25. We are currently reviewing our business strategy and longer term plan and we will be reducing the amount of Taxis we have.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:47 PM

None

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:47 PM

Please don't do this, awful idea. The car is checked beyond MOT standards during the test, and this is why the test covers the mot. Don't work against us, work on our side and don't make life harder, we are already struggling to earn a living with reduced trade and increased costs

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:49 PM

Fully object to this as we pay over the odds for a taxi mot anyway dont see why we should pay for the paper certificate this is already

inclusive on current cost.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:53 PM

Best idea you ever made miles,time and fuel wasted to a council mot station will make a saving

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:57 PM

What exactly do the higher standards of mot involve more than a normal garage. It seems this idea hasn't been thought through and again is a money grab at an industry struggling with poor hospitality trade/ fuel costs and cost of living costs.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:06 PM

Aye,really??

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:08 PM

charging£25 for certificate seems a bit over the top going to carage seems fair

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:14 PM

Not clear exactly what this proposal means? If the suggestion is that a taxi can be inspected at any MOT garage and then certificate taken to council garage for perusal. Then yes I'd imagine that would suit most drivers.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:17 PM

These additional costs are not acceptable in my view during the current financial climate

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:22 PM

No comments on this apart from can a company that has several vehicles opt out per single vehicles for a test certificate

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:26 PM

Don't care

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:28 PM

No

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:30 PM

n/a

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:39 PM

N/A

Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:50 PM	May be a lack of consistency in tester applying MOT standards
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:45 PM	N/A for me
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:57 PM	STUPID IDEA its the Council that's testing they should issue Cert so as no back street dodgy mots are issued
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:07 PM	No
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:15 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:30 PM	Surely an MoT test from a private garage will be higher than £25.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:30 PM	no
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:38 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:59 PM	Should be no additional charge
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:09 PM	Mot certificates should be issued FOC
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:15 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:19 PM	It sounds as if an operator refuses to pay the £25, they have to go to another garage and get a full MoT, is that right? So what you are effectively saying is that we have to pay the £25 or you are not going to MoT test the vehicles and we need to go elsewhere. Is that correct? If the MoT is currently part of the Taxi/PHC test then if you are changing it so the MoT is optional (from Fleet Services) then surely you should be reducing the cost of the annual test and not increasing it. We have no objection to the fees increasing but the £25 fee for the certificate is completely unfair. The testers are carrying out



the test anyway as they do at the moment and to charge £25 to print off the certificate is way more than what it costs to do. It feels like you are backing people into a corner by saying pay the £25 or go elsewhere because you know the cost of the MoT will be higher at an external garage. In the current financial economic climate, you should be helping the trade, not making things even harder for them. Over the years you have seen the amount of licences (vehicles and drivers) reduce and it has continued to do so year in year out. I think you will see the amount of licences reduce even further with your latest proposals.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:31 PM

Should continue to be free, scrap the higher standard MOT if required.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:32 PM

This cost is already in with the excessive cost to MOT a taxi and now you want to charge a extra £25.00 again your costs should be looked at as again this is ridiculous.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:37 PM

Seems fair.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:38 PM

NONE

Anonymous

1/18/2023 06:07 PM

None

Anonymous

1/18/2023 06:10 PM

We do not agree with this proposal and we will not be paying £25. You are basically putting operators in a corner by making them pay £25 or they have to go elsewhere. You could have instead said that they can print it themselves at home as anyone can go online and access their MoT certificate and print it providing they have the vehicle details and the document reference number from the V5C. It can be printed out at home. Your proposal means that if we decline to pay £25 we have to go and find somewhere else to do the MoT.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 07:56 PM

None

Anonymous

1/18/2023 08:24 PM

No comment

Civic Licensing Fees (not alcohol) : Survey Report for 04 February 2021 to 25 January 2023

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Anonymous 1/18/2023 08:51 PM	Would that be a £25 charge on top Surely get a certificate from another garage would be suffice
Anonymous 1/18/2023 09:13 PM	It would be beneficial to use another garage but I suspect it would be a very complicated process
Anonymous 1/18/2023 10:02 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/19/2023 09:57 AM	Not relevant for me
Anonymous 1/19/2023 11:05 AM	No
Anonymous 1/19/2023 11:50 AM	firstly the mot fee of £54.85 (no VAT on MOT's) includes the mot cert so to charge an additional £25 for a sheet of paper is simply both unlawful and makes no sense as no calculation can justify £25 for a sheet of paper. that said We do recognise is it actually required as online provides all the information. should we have our MOT done by a station of our choice what actual checks will the council perform, how often will this happen 6 monthly or annually ? and how much will we be charged to have the higher standard test performed by the council, surely this will be a small fee for the checks being done as its not being tested fully if the MOT cert is within the 1 month planned allowance?
Anonymous 1/19/2023 02:05 PM	NA
Anonymous 1/20/2023 07:57 AM	That is fine.
Anonymous 1/21/2023 02:27 PM	No comment
Anonymous 1/22/2023 06:24 PM	N/A

**Optional question** (48 response(s), 87 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q4** Please provide any comments that you have on the proposed fees.

Anonymous 12/21/2022 01:38 PM	The only comment we have relates to the £25 fee for the test certificate. This is totally unfair.
Anonymous 12/23/2022 01:26 PM	We all need to be metal dealers or sex shop retailers there would be more money in it. No wonder the taxi trade in Aberdeenshire is dying.
Anonymous 12/27/2022 10:11 AM	Why do some not have any increases at all? The Council should be assisting businesses, not forcing them out the door.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:47 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:53 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:57 PM	No comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:58 PM	N/a
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:14 PM	Aberdeen city centre and most other town shopping centres are dying as it is. Without any further disincentive from increased fees. The council should be reducing fees for markets/ and independent shops. To make the city/town centres a more attractive/affordable prospect to independent traders. A more vibrant city/town centre means more footfall means more business for drivers/resteraunts/cafes etc.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:17 PM	As per my last answer
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:26 PM	Don't care
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:28 PM	Absolute shocking price! We are trying to make a living

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:30 PM

n/a

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:31 PM

What exactly is it that we are getting for the extra money that you are charging? When I started window cleaning 7 years ago the licence was only £50.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:35 PM

Street trader employee is to high. Most young employees only last a few months. Suggestion of : month trial before full payment

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:39 PM

N/A

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:46 PM

I feel businesses are under enough pressure of rising costs, any increase could close more businesses

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:50 PM

No comment

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:56 PM

Completely ridiculous increases. What genuine reason is there for the increase of fees above an inflationary rise? How can it possible cost £271.69 for the issuing of what must be only a handful of market operators licenses every 3 years?

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:59 PM

A 50% increase in the window cleaners license fee? Is it April the 1st? Hope this is a joke. 😊

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:08 PM

In this economic climate I think we pay enough at the moment. When are you going to clamp down on unlicensed car dealers, it is not hard to find out

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:09 PM

The window cleaning licence will not have an impact on me for another 2 years but an almost 40% increase when we are no longer provided with a badge to satisfy the public and never challenged by any council official had caused an influx of unlicensed window cleaners in Stonehaven. I think the increase is an insult and if anything we should be getting a reduction due to poor administration over the past couple of years. The reason we get is we are working from home, I have been waiting since may for my photo card and all I was issued with was an electronic version that anyone could create in 15 minutes on a smartphone.

Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:15 PM	I feel the increase in the window cleaners license seems very steep
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:24 PM	The Window Cleaners License, why not make it to last for 5 years, seems more sensible - less admin costs, less hassle and better value.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:45 PM	N/A for me
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:56 PM	Personally i think it's a joke, considering how quickly they took my money and despite emails to them i still have not received my license to display.i would expect a discount on my next renewal.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:57 PM	n/a no comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:07 PM	While any increase in costs is never desirable for a business or self employed person. I realise that council costs must be covered and the proposed £4.63 excess is reasonable. A separate question would be is the council department for civic license doing what they can to keep the costs down to a minimum?
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:15 PM	Seems reasonable.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:38 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:09 PM	Nonsense, stop paying tht council big wigs astronomical wages.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:15 PM	I would object to the fees going up when I can't even have a up to date licence badge sent out to me, I was told to keep using my old one and the new one would be sent out
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:17 PM	A five year window cleaners license would reduce mutual costs (police check etc). Can this be provided as an option?

Civic Licensing Fees (not alcohol) : Survey Report for 04 February 2021 to 25 January 2023

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Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:23 PM	I think due to increases in food costs etc the liscnece fees should freeze people are struggling and we don't want loose any of the traders
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:31 PM	Licences that provide no public benefit such as window cleaning and second hand dealing licences should be scrapped to save on costs incurred to the tax payer.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:37 PM	No comment.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:38 PM	nONE
Anonymous 1/18/2023 06:00 PM	Why do window cleaners have to pay for a license and gardeners who are just the same access to people's property don't ☹ .
Anonymous 1/18/2023 06:07 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 06:10 PM	Why do some licences have no increase?
Anonymous 1/18/2023 07:56 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 08:18 PM	No comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 08:24 PM	No Comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 08:51 PM	Should happen at the moment in this climate We are still waiting on fare increases for the taxi service
Anonymous 1/18/2023 09:44 PM	The above proposed fees appear reasonable.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 10:02 PM	N/A

Anonymous  
1/18/2023 10:07 PM  
It sees fair, however whatever sexual entertainment is? I reckon it should be increased 10 fold !

Anonymous  
1/19/2023 09:57 AM  
Proposed fees are reasonable in the current climate

Anonymous  
1/19/2023 11:05 AM  
This can only lead to a rise in prices, again having an effect on the general public.

Anonymous  
1/19/2023 11:50 AM  
:(Why does it cost a taxi driver an additional £7 over 3 years to have a licence, yet a windo cleaner is seeing a £39 increase, what are the additional costs to provide a window cleaner with a licence to work rather than a taxi driver, sure disclosure etc are the same costs.

Anonymous  
1/19/2023 01:43 PM  
Ok is that £135 for window cleaner 3years?

Anonymous  
1/19/2023 02:05 PM  
NA

Anonymous  
1/19/2023 03:47 PM  
Minimal cost if £15/£20 per year over 3 year period is ok

Anonymous  
1/20/2023 07:57 AM  
This looks fair.

Anonymous  
1/21/2023 02:27 PM  
No comment

Anonymous  
1/22/2023 06:24 PM  
The increase in fees would appear to be quite fair considering the rising cost of living.

Anonymous  
1/23/2023 11:33 PM  
The windows cleaners license increase seems a lot don't mind it going up but seems a lot

Anonymous  
1/25/2023 08:11 PM  
N/A

Optional question (57 response(s), 78 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

**Q5** Please provide any comments that you have on the proposed fees for miscellaneous licences.

Anonymous 12/27/2022 10:11 AM	Increases are too high.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:47 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:53 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:57 PM	No comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 01:58 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:00 PM	Venison Dealers licence seems unfair as this industry is under pressure as compared to other industries we should be supporting good healthy produce
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:06 PM	N/a
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:17 PM	As per my last answer
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:26 PM	Don't care
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:28 PM	Disgraceful
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:30 PM	n/a



Civic Licensing Fees (not alcohol) : Survey Report for 04 February 2021 to 25 January 2023

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Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:30 PM	I think these increases are extreme. This increase in licences could mean that businesses would cease to trade.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:31 PM	These are likely to affect small businesses and should be phased rather than increased to 3x current.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:39 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/18/2023 02:50 PM	Significant increase - explanation of cost breakdown would be useful - can cost be reduced?
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:21 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:38 PM	No comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:45 PM	N/A for me
Anonymous 1/18/2023 03:57 PM	n/a no comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:15 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/18/2023 04:49 PM	Seems reasonable enough to me!!
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:09 PM	Nonsense
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:15 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:31 PM	There should be no need for a hypnotist licence considering its an absolute nonsense profession anyway. Increasing venison dealer licences will only reduce demand for venison thus increasing the problem that we suffer from over population of deer.

Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:37 PM	No comment.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 05:38 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 06:07 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 07:56 PM	None
Anonymous 1/18/2023 08:24 PM	No comment
Anonymous 1/18/2023 08:30 PM	This is a very large increase in percentage terms
Anonymous 1/18/2023 09:26 PM	.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 09:44 PM	The above proposed fees seem reasonable and fair.
Anonymous 1/18/2023 10:02 PM	While our organisation does not require A Cinema Licence at present it is something we would consider. While it is around a 300% increase, if you used it in a hall for example and showed films regularly it would be good value for money. More difficult for community halls in smaller villages. I would think that venison dealers and the hypnotists would be able to pay the additional fees.
Anonymous 1/19/2023 07:22 AM	There is no mention of Public entertainment licence
Anonymous 1/19/2023 09:57 AM	Proposed fees are reasonable in current climate
Anonymous 1/19/2023 11:05 AM	Bad idea. Cinemas are already struggling, and closing down across the country. They should be encouraged - maybe through tax breaks, not increases.

Anonymous 1/19/2023 11:50 AM	how does £30 per year to operate a Cinema compare to £270 to operate a taxi , Get a grip !
Anonymous 1/19/2023 02:05 PM	NA
Anonymous 1/19/2023 03:47 PM	N/A
Anonymous 1/20/2023 07:57 AM	This looks fair.
Anonymous 1/21/2023 02:27 PM	No comment
Anonymous 1/22/2023 06:24 PM	AS before
Anonymous 1/23/2023 04:14 PM	There is no mention here of the increase in the Public Entertainment Licence.
Anonymous 1/25/2023 05:48 PM	Proposed fees are quite a steep increase from current fees compared to other licences.
Anonymous 1/25/2023 08:11 PM	N/A

**Optional question** (45 response(s), 90 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q6** All fees will be subject to an annual increase in line with inflation from the 1st of April each year starting from 2024. Do you have any comments on this? Please provide them below.

Anonymous 12/21/2022 01:38 PM	Licensing is not supposed to make a profit. I would be interested in seeing the calculations regarding these increases as I would be very surprised if you are not making a profit. Some licences are not being subjected to any increase at all. In light of Covid and the recession, businesses should be supported. For us, the £25 test fee certificate is
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the end of the line. I think you will see the licence numbers for vehicles and drivers seriously decline going forward.

Anonymous

12/23/2022 01:26 PM

You cannot simply raise fees by inflation. The local government act require that all charges are subject to an annual " profit " check. Just applying a inflationary increases suggests that these checks are not being undertaken

Anonymous

12/23/2022 05:57 PM

Inflation should be across the board if this is the case. Costs are hugely rising to run vehicles and maintain them so if you are increasing then fares should be treated with the same respect so we have a fair crack at it without costing us money. At these proposals we will be operating for less money than previous

Anonymous

12/27/2022 10:11 AM

Some businesses will be forced to close their doors in 2023 with the rising cost involved with so many things.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:47 PM

None

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:53 PM

Should be kept as it was for years as puts extra costs to business

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:57 PM

Perhaps if we got a payrise in-line with inflation it would help. I'd be interested to see if the fare structure is in line with the living wage. If not then that needs addresses as last time we asked the council this they refused to answer

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:57 PM

No comment

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:58 PM

N/A

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:17 PM

As a taxi driver I the the fees are high enough as it is we had the planned fare increase that was due to come in over December put on hold until the next planned meeting how can the council increase fees when fares are not going up in this current financial climate

Anonymous

Public Entertainment licences for Charities and community groups

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1/18/2023 02:26 PM

should be no cost

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:28 PM

Disgraceful

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:30 PM

This makes sense

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:30 PM

increases in line with inflation are much more acceptable to some of the increases that have been proposed.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:31 PM

Disagree. The review is a useful way of consulting and getting views and automatic increases should be discouraged.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:35 PM

We can't keep up with inflation.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:39 PM

As holders of a public entertainment license an increase in fees would be an extreme strain on our already strained resources as a school and we be a detriment to our ability to engage with our community by inviting them to school shows etc.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:41 PM

This seems reasonable.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 02:59 PM

An increase in line with inflation is sensible and acceptable,the 50% increase that you are proposing is neither sensible or acceptable.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:12 PM

Taxi fares have not been reviewed since July 2020, since which time diesel has increased in price by 50%. If council fees are to be inflation indexed, is it not fare that licenced taxi fares should be similarly indexed? Alternatively, if fares are to be subject to Councillors' decision at unspecified review intervals, should not the Council have to similarly put its own fee increases to politically/publicly accountable decision making on each occasion?

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:26 PM

Council should be subsidising licences for community facilities.

Anonymous

No comment

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1/18/2023 03:38 PM

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:42 PM

THE FEES ARE BECOMING UNAFFORDABLE. A BREAKDOWN OF THE COUNCILS COSTS THAT THEY KEEP USING AS THE EXCUSE FOR THE CONSTANT INCREASED WOULD BE GREAT.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:45 PM

Seems reasonable.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:56 PM

As I said previously, it's a joke as they do nothing for the money.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 03:57 PM

make it a round figure using common sense re adjustment

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:07 PM

I feel that the costings should be shown to justify any increase. To say 'in line with inflation' is surely just rubber stamping inefficiency. As inflation goes up all windows cleaners I know are having to cut costs, put off replacing vehicles as well as be very competitive in a market flooded by new starts paid off by other industries. Last time my wife and myself renewed our licences at Stonehaven it took 3 people to know how to find and fill in the online info needed and we were both still sent a email requesting an identification check! We were both present in person at the office and had our present licenses and driving licences there with us. I really feel strongly that this sort of inefficiency should be curtailed rather than rubber stamp us manual hard working individuals in the community subsidising the wages of inefficient council office staff with a guaranteed inflation rise.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:15 PM

I am interested to know how the Costs are calculated, seems a bit random/convenient.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:30 PM

Taxi fares can also be raised each year in line with inflation then?

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:30 PM

no

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:49 PM

Ok

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:51 PM

We are a Non Profit Community Association whose function is to raise funds to maintain and run the local village hall. While none of the fee changes mentioned on the previous pages are applicable to our organisation - being a 'non profit' organisation any increase in fees such as for PEL or Lottery Licence could affect the viability of our association.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:55 PM

The holders of these licences may not have the ability to increase their costs to cover their increases in costs due to inflation.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 04:59 PM

Unless relevant fares etc are subject to same increase there should be no annual increase

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:09 PM

Sorry fees charged by operators and traders do not go up with inflation or are index linked.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:15 PM

I don't see why the cost needs to go up as a window cleaners licence for the council only cost the back ground check and to print the badge why do you need to make more profit on jt

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:17 PM

This seems reasonable, but which index will be used and will it be the previous 12 months average used?

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:31 PM

This should be the maximum increase allowed.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:32 PM

This is not value for money from the council.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:33 PM

Taxi fares should be the same then

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:37 PM

Seems fair.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 05:38 PM

Do the Council differentiate between charitable and commercial operations?

Anonymous

None

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1/18/2023 06:07 PM

Anonymous None

1/18/2023 07:56 PM

Anonymous No comment

1/18/2023 08:24 PM

Anonymous An in line with inflation increase seems a sensible policy as long as the fees do not rise as well.

1/18/2023 08:30 PM

Anonymous Taxi fares must also increase inline with inflation

1/18/2023 09:13 PM

Anonymous No

1/18/2023 09:26 PM

Anonymous I think this is reasonable as most other costs also increase with inflation.

1/18/2023 09:44 PM

Anonymous I consider this an acceptable way of increasing costs. Glad to see it's not happening until 2024 in the present climate.

1/18/2023 10:02 PM

Anonymous No problem.

1/18/2023 10:07 PM

Anonymous I feel that you should be focused on covering costs as per the above structure rather than assume an inflation index which does not necessarily translate to actual costs of administration. I would hope that you would adopt this approach annually. However, it is not clear how you calculate costs of administration. AND my experience is that there is opportunity for streamlining and improving efficiency making admin less costly in the future. The system is confused and not digitally efficient.

1/19/2023 09:57 AM

Anonymous Is this really necessary. If you increase the fees by a high inflation figure then the cost will just be passed on to the public who are unable to get a pay rise to compensate for this.

1/19/2023 10:47 AM

Anonymous No



1/19/2023 11:05 AM

Anonymous

1/19/2023 11:50 AM

All the council are doing is supporting the thousands that operate out with the legal framework, thanks for helping put another nail in the coffins of small business, who are trying frustratedly to operate within the rules.

Anonymous

1/19/2023 01:11 PM

None

Anonymous

1/19/2023 02:05 PM

Will the fees also be corrected again if inflation drops?

Anonymous

1/19/2023 03:47 PM

No comment

Anonymous

1/20/2023 07:57 AM

This is fair.

Anonymous

1/21/2023 02:27 PM

I note that in the email received there is mention of Public Entertainment Licence but it does not appear in the survey. If this is to be subject to a 10% plus increase it will impact on Community halls/small charities that require a licence but may only have need on the odd occasion.

Anonymous

1/22/2023 06:24 PM

as before

Anonymous

1/22/2023 08:39 PM

No objection.

Anonymous

1/25/2023 08:11 PM

N/A

**Optional question** (63 response(s), 72 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question