

Regulation and Review Committee

15 September 2015

Present: Councillor K Osborne (Chair)
Councillors A Arkle, G Bell, G Madden, D McGarr and T
Mulvenna.

Councillor J Munby (Via Skype)

RQ40/9/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Austin, L Bell, N Huscroft, J O'Shea, A Percy and M Reynolds.

RQ41/9/15 Substitute Members

There were no substitutes reported.

RQ42/9/15 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

RQ43/9/15 Introduction of New Fees and Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Scheme

At the meeting of the Committee held on 6 August 2015 approval was given for the Senior Client Manager, Technical Services to formally consult on proposals to vary the fees and charges relating to the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire drivers and private hire operators (Minute 31/8/15 refers).

Two representations had been received as a result of the consultation on the proposals. The first from the Secretary of the North Tyneside Hackney Carriage Association which queried the calculations used to determine the licence fees, questioned the legal basis for having a combined hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence and stated that funds collected for each of the licenses should be held in separate accounts.

The Committee was advised that a full review of the fees and charges was currently being undertaken and action had already been undertaken to address the concerns regarding separate accounts for the licences. It was also explained that the issue of the combined hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence would also be considered as part of the ongoing policy review.

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The second representation from A2Z Licensing on behalf of a number of private hire operators suggested that the proposed fees had been miscalculated and suggested that the fees be amended as follows:

- New Driver (Single/Combined) 2 year licence - £135
- Renewal Driver (Single/Combined) 2 year licence - £105
- New Driver (Single/Combined) 3 year licence - £170
- Renewal Driver (Single/Combined) 3 year licence - £140
- New Private Hire Operator Licence - £1740
- Renewal Private Hire Operator Licence - £1610

Mr Snedden, on behalf of the North Tyneside Hackney Carriage Association, was permitted to address the meeting. He explained that the fees for hackney carriage and private hire drivers should be held in separate accounts as demonstrated in a recent judgement in the Cummings et al v Cardiff City Council (2014) case. He also suggested that Private Hire Operators should be required to be included on all private hire vehicle licences and the associated increased administration costs should be charged to their licences. He also confirmed that he agreed with the figures outlined above.

Resolved that (1) the representations from the North Tyneside Hackney Carriage Association and A2Z Licensing be received; and
(2) the licence fees as outlined above be approved