

APPENDIX 2.

Willimont, Marc

From: Willimont, Marc
Sent: 22 April 2010 18:01
To: (jjones227@toucansurf.com)
Cc: Nicholas, Paul
Subject: Advanced information on Fee Increases

Attachments: Advert for fees increase 2010 for press.doc revised.doc

John,

In the interests of consultation and information sharing with the trade I am emailing you to inform you that I have been requested from the highest level to increase all fees and charges by 2%. This will be the first taxi licensing increase since April 2007. For the taxi trade, this will take effect from 1st June, for other service areas, 1st May.

You will hopefully see that I have taken the opportunity to reduce the plate and bracket charges as previously discussed and I hope that you will also note that I have endeavoured to keep the set fees the same, such as the knowledge tests, Amey tests etc.

You may also note that I may shortly be directed to review these fees with a full cost accounting exercise which I should I hope be welcomed. At this time these new fees may then have to be reconsidered.

The attachment below has gone to the Hereford Times for advertisement, but will not be in the papers or the Council's Info Centres until next Thursday (29th April). Operators etc will be informed in due course, however in the interests of close joint working (something I know you unfortunately doubt), please be reassured that you are the first to know.

Further to your earlier email, you also ought to be aware that my line manager is now Paul Nicholas, Assistant Director.

I hope this keeps you informed.

Regards

Marc

Marc Willimont,
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Willimont, Marc

Subject: FW: Advanced information on Fee Increases

From: Willimont, Marc

Sent: 27 April 2010 11:12

To: John Jones

Cc: Beavan-Pearson, Richard; Berrow, Claire; Nicholas, Paul; Poole, Ady

Subject: RE: Advanced information on Fee Increases

John,

thank you for your email, the reply of which I could have predicted. To save both our time, I will make my reply to the point.

In answer:

- "Consultation" - if you read the advert attached to the email sent to you it says:

"Any objections to the proposed increases should be made in writing stating the reason(s) and should be sent to the Licensing Unit, County Offices, Bath Street, PO Box 233, Hereford HR1 2ZF by the 28th May 2010. If no objections are made or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the proposed fees shall come into operation on 1st June 2010, or at the date of withdrawal of the last objection, whichever is the later. If objections are duly made and not withdrawn, Herefordshire Council, shall set a further date not later than two months after the date specified above on which the proposed increases shall take effect with or without modifications, as decided by Herefordshire Council after consideration of any objections."

Therefore no decision has been finalised. [This is consultation](#). It is also as laid out under the LG(MP)Act 1976 s.70, so is legally correct.

The Reg Committee will decide on any objections as per s.70(5).

I will therefore arrange to refer your objection comments to them, as a committee report for them to consider you comments in June.

Clearly you had not read the advert properly.

- Prior to this list being published I discussed the ambiguity re the 'spare vehicle licence fee' and was informed that is currently £252 and not £162. If this is not the case, I will ensure that it is returned to £162 plus 2% is accepted.
- Yes you are right. The fees have not been altered since April 2007. In 2007 these fees were calculated on the the full costs of the team at that time. It is likely that I will also shortly be requested to recalculate these fees to not only include the full team costs, but also the true costs of the internal trading charged by other departments to taxi licensing, e.g. cost of building, corporate costs, cost of info centres etc. Hopefully, some fees will go down, although I cannot of course guarantee this.
- The £35 plate fees were calculated in 2007 at the time to include full bracket costs. My reply to your FOI request showed this had reduced to £27 (plus unspecified costs). The team have since sourced a cheaper plate version which puts them at £5 or £12 with brackets - something I would have thought the Association applauds, as this saving would be passed directly to the trade and would not go for profit, as you put it.
- If you read my email and understood it, you will see that it infers that 2% is the corporately agreed increase. It was not my choice - full cost accounting where fees = expenditure would have been mine.
- Paul Nicholas is my head of service. Info centres should have been aware. I also changed the details on the Council's Intranet at the beginning of April. I will remind them again. For technical / departmental matters, as my line manager Mr Nicholas can be contacted on pnicholas@herefordshire.gov.uk although as you have been informed already, any complaints should be addressed to rbeavanpearson@herefordshire.gov.uk

19/05/2010

I hope that this explains and answers your questions

regards

Marc

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