

Appendix A (Part 1 of 2)

Document 1

18th January 2025

Licensing

Shropshire Council

Shire Hall

Shrewsbury

Re: Licensing Fees 2025-2026

Dear Licensing,

Regarding the proposed changes to the Licensing fees, I am confused, as to why the cost for renewing some licenses should be higher than the cost for a new license. There would surely be more 'work' involved in processing new applications – for any license – than involved in renewals, therefore I can't understand why it should cost more to renew.

The proposed changes are like the last fees – everything has gone up slightly, which I don't have a problem with and is expected. However, there are entries that require attention:

I am an operator that has up to and including 30 vehicles and one base. The fee to renew is £417, yet for a new application the fee is £375 (£42 more expensive to renew).

For larger operators that have 31 vehicles and more/or more than one base, the fee to renew is £956, yet for a new application the fee is £985 (£29 cheaper to renew).

Why am I being treated differently to larger operators? Why should it be cheaper for them to renew than for me?

The proposed fees also show a higher cost to renew vehicles than for new applications. Why is this?

I honestly don't care what the actual cost of any license is but having a higher cost for a renewal of any license than for a new license doesn't make sense. I spoke to a Licensing Officer recently who attempted to explain that the difference was due to the volume of applications for renewals being higher than for new applications, and the overall 'cost' to your department is then split between the amount of License applications. It was then stated, as I've heard many times, that the department cannot make a profit from issuing Licenses. There are surely many more renewals than new applications, therefore the cost per license would be cheaper for renewals?

The concerning issue for me, is that the decision for these fees isn't made by just one person. Meetings will have been had and the fees discussed at length, yet the outcome is a proposal that to most people would be seen as ill thought out and nonsensical.

Does no one ever bring up in the meetings the possibility that people (licensees) are going to be confused/annoyed by these proposals? If they don't then they should, and if they do – why do these proposals even make it to this stage of a consultation?

Please amend the proposed fees so that renewals are cheaper than new applications. Put all the prices up if you must – I don't care – but each year the fees change, I, along with many other licensees, read them with disappointment, confusion and fury.

Yours sincerely

(Private Hire Operator)

Document 2

Taxi Fees consultation 2025

To Taxis

Fri 17/01/2025 16:04

Good day

All Shropshire drivers we are not happy about the fees going up because we're not even making money on this platform, Reason why we are not making a money because you're letting Wolverhampton drivers to operate in Shrewsbury.

The whole Shrewsbury is full of Wolverhampton and Telford taxis and you as Council you are doing nothing about it.

We hope taxi fees will go down to £150 until you remove Wolverhampton taxis in Shrewsbury I thank you.

Kindly regards

(Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver/Private Hire Vehicle Proprietor)

