## Humphreys, Nickii

From:

Bruce Hall

Sent:

27 December 2012 15:44

To:

Humphreys, Nickii

Cc: Subject:

Lee, Ross increase in fees

## Dear Mrs Humphries

I write to you to strongly object to the proposed increases in license fees, in the economy we have at present I cannot understand why the licensing department feel the need to raise above the rate of inflation (currently at 2.7%) to 2.75%.

Portsmouth City Council has been all over the news because of need to reduce the budget, so Portsmouth City Council are fully aware of the terrible economic climate the country is in. Even the Licensing department has had to move to share offices with another department on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, this is not to benefit the Taxi/Private Hire Trade but to cut costs internally. The industry now has to take a ticket from a desk in the reception and wait for somebody from the third floor to come down and see us.

Also there has not been any consultation within the industry, this increase is being fast tracked through for the  $14^{th}$  January 2013 hoping people would not object, I note from an email received from Mr Ross Lee dated  $15^{th}$  November 2012 stating:

You may recall from previous discussions with Nickii (and after committee consideration) that Members expressed a view that licensing fees for the taxi and private hire trades be reviewed on annual basis having regard primarily to the following core factors:

- ? To take into account inflationary and/or other costs
- ? To consider the full cost recovery (where possible) for the licensing undertaking

The Licensing Committee received a report from Nickii in September last year and, as a consequence, modest increases in licensing fees (together with increases to cover specific administrative functions) were introduced w.e.f 01 November 2011.

We wanted to let you know at an early stage that possible increases in licensing fees are under consideration and we will keep trade representatives informed of progress accordingly.

We will keep trade representatives informed of progress accordingly, placing an advert in The News is not what I call keeping the trade informed.

The Private Hire industry pays the lion share already for the services it receives from the Licensing department, why should the Private Hire Trade once again have to carry the majority of the increase?

Can you please in detail give me a complete breakdown of what the monies received from our industry are used for?

Aqua Cars STRONGLY object to this increase therefore would ask that this increase be put towards the committee where it can get a fair hearing from all sides and reviewed in a professional way and not railroaded through like you are trying to do at present.

Yours sincerely

## Bruce Hall General Manager



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