

**REPORT TO:** Licensing Sub-Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** 8 May 2025  
**BY:** Executive Director for Council Resources  
**SUBJECT:** Taxi Fare Review

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To allow the Licensing Sub-Committee to consider the review of the scale of the fares or other charges currently in operation in respect of the East Lothian taxi fleet.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee –
- a) complete the review of taxi fares by considering the two responses received from local taxi operators and information on neighbouring local authority tariffs;
  - b) agree that the confirmed tariff will come into effect on 28 July 2025; and
  - c) authorise officers to advertise and explain the effect of the proposals and invite representations from the public.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to review taxi fares at least once every 18 months. The last review took place between August 2023 (Appendix 1 – existing tariff), with the fares being adopted on 27 January 2024, meaning that the next review is to be completed no later than May 2024 in order to comply with the statutory timescales.
- 3.2 To ensure compliance with this timescale, the review was initiated by way of consultation with the taxi trade in East Lothian regarding any proposals they may have regarding the review of taxi fares. That consultation ran

from 4 to 31 March 2025. There were two responses or proposals (Appendices 2 and 3) received to alter the current fee structure. The Sub-Committee is entitled to complete the review of fares with the decision being to make no changes to the current levels or amend current levels.

- 3.3 As part of the review of taxi fares, the Licensing Team has also consulted with other Licensing Authorities, namely, West Lothian, Midlothian, City of Edinburgh, and Scottish Borders about their current scale of fares and other charges. A summary of their charges can be found at Appendix 4.
- 3.4 For information, comparable journey costs for the above local authorities have been calculated (Appendix 5).
- 3.5 Before any new scale of fares and other charges can come into force, the Council must advertise any new proposed scale in the local press to give an opportunity for public representations. Said notice must also specify the date on which it is proposed that the tariff shall take effect, which must take account of the period for representations and for appeals to the Traffic Commissioners. It is therefore suggested that the proposed date of coming into effect should be eight weeks after the date of advertising. Following the coming into effect of the tariff, there would be a further notice published confirming that the new tariff is now in effect.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None. In fixing a scale of fares and other charges, the Council as Licensing Authority is complying with a statutory duty.

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial - none
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other - none

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

Appendix 1 – Existing tariff

Appendix 2 – Trade body response (Torrance 07.01.25)

Appendix 3 – Trade body response (Torrance 28.03.25)

Appendix 4 – Summary of neighbouring authority tariffs

Appendix 5 – Comparable journey costs

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Ian Forrest
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Senior Solicitor
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	Ext 7389
<b>DATE</b>	15 April 2025

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982  
TAXI FARE SCALE

**FARE TABLE FOR TAXI CABS**  
**27 January 2024**

For 1 to 8 Passengers	TARIFF 1 6am – 6pm	TARIFF 2 6pm- 6am	TARIFF 3
1. For the initial period of waiting and 2. For the initial hire not exceeding 713.70 yards	£3.60	£4.80	£6.00  1. 6pm on 24 <sup>th</sup> December until 6am on 27 <sup>th</sup> December  2. 6pm on 31 <sup>st</sup> December until 6am on 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
1. For each additional 40 seconds of waiting time	24p	24p	48p
2. For every additional 146.5 yards	24p	24p	48p
3. Or a combination of 1 and 2 above	24p	24p	48p

EXTRA PAYMENTS

- Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £120

NOTES

- The above fares are applicable only within East Lothian

**Fitzpatrick, Sheila**

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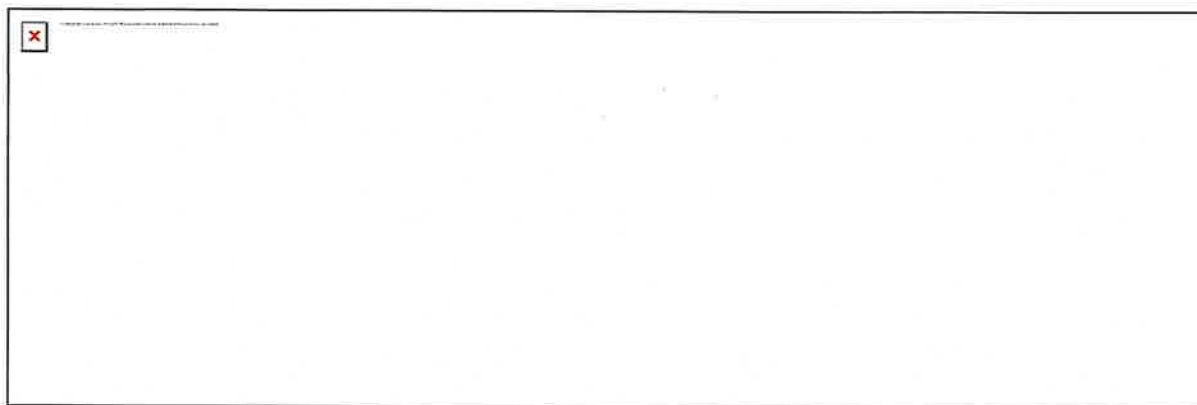
**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 07 January 2025 10:59  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Sheila  
**Subject:** FW: Taxi Fares

**Alison Rafferty**

**Licensing Officer | East Lothian Council | John Muir House | Haddington EH41 3HA | T. 01620 827664**  
**| E. [licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk)**

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**From:** Ian Torrance <torrancetaxis@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 10:54 AM  
**To:** Licensing <licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Taxi Fares

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To whom It May Concern

It is now time to ask for a price increase. As I am sure you are aware of the additional costs which are on the horizon ie. Minimum Wages , N.I. , increase in Taxi Licence also Vehicle Tests which are already in place.

Could I please put a request forward for a price increase in the region of 10%. I have spoken to Robert Campbell at AC,s and he is in total agreement.

Regards

Ian Torrance

For and on behalf of

Torrance Taxis

1a Spott Road, Dunbar

East Lothian

EH42 1LE

Tel: 01368 862612

Web: <http://www.torrancetaxisandtravel.co.uk>.

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**Fitzpatrick, Sheila**

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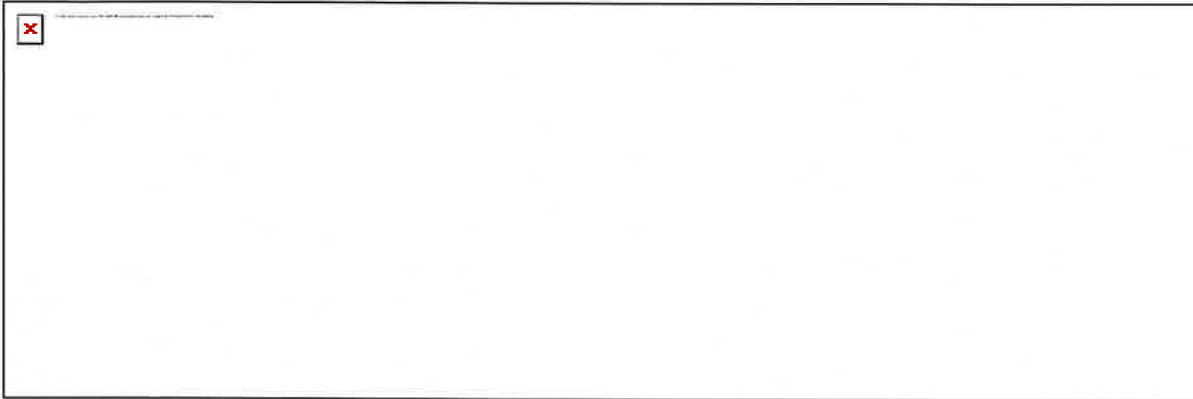
**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 28 March 2025 09:44  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Sheila  
**Subject:** FW: Taxi Fare Increase  
**Attachments:** Taxi Fare 2.pdf

**Alison Rafferty**

Licensing Officer | East Lothian Council | John Muir House | Haddington EH41 3HA | T. 01620 827664  
|E. [licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk)

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**From:** Ian Torrance <torrancetaxis@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 28 March 2025 09:36  
**To:** Licensing <licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Taxi Fare Increase

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Good Morning

With regards to an increase in fares, taking into account all additional cost such as Living Wage Increase, National Insurance Increase no doubt an Increase in taxi tests, taxi licence for which we now pay for medicals ourselves £55 also, medical stress tests when required at a cost of £500. Replacement of vehicles are now costing an additional £20000.00 Please find attached proposed new tariffs.

Regards

Ian Torrance

For and on behalf of

Torrance Taxis

1a Spott Road, Dunbar

East Lothian

EH42 1LE

Tel: 01368 862612

Web: <http://www.torrancetaxisandtravel.co.uk>.

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EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982  
TAXI FARE SCALE

**FARE TABLE FOR TAXI CABS**  
**27 January 2024**

For 1 to 8 Passengers	TARIFF 1 6am – 6pm	TARIFF 2 6pm- 6am	TARIFF 3
1. For the initial period of waiting and 2. For the initial hire not exceeding 713.70 yards	£3.60 <b>£3.80</b> <b>+ 5.5%</b>	£4.80 <b>NO CHANGE</b>	£6.00 1. 6pm on 24 <sup>th</sup> December until 6am on 27 <sup>th</sup> December 2. 6pm on 31 <sup>st</sup> December until 6am on 2 <sup>nd</sup> January <b>NO CHANGE</b>
1. For each additional 40 seconds of waiting time	<del>24p</del> <b>30p</b>	<del>24p</del> <b>30p</b>	<del>48p</del> <b>60p</b>
2. For every additional 146.5 yards	<del>24p</del> <b>30p</b>	<del>24p</del> <b>30p</b>	<del>48p</del> <b>60p</b>
3. Or a combination of 1 and 2 above	<del>24p</del> <b>30p</b> <b>+ 25%</b>	<del>24p</del> <b>30p</b> <b>+ 25%</b>	<del>48p</del> <b>60p</b> <b>+ 25%</b>

EXTRA PAYMENTS

- Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £120 (**NO CHANGE**)

NOTES

- The above fares are applicable only within East Lothian

		<b>Tariff 1 0600 – 1800</b>	<b>Tariff 2 1800 – 0600</b>	<b>Tariff 3 1800, 24 Dec to 0600, 27 Dec and 1800, 31 Dec to 0600, 2 January</b>		<b>Additional charges</b>	<b>ELC (current)</b>
Initial period of waiting and initial hire < 713.70 yards	1 – 8 passengers	£3.60	£4.80	£6.00		Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £120.00	
1. Each additional 40 seconds of waiting time 2. Every additional 146.5 yards 3. Combination of 1 and 2		£0.24	£0.24	£0.48			
		<b>Tariff 1 Mon – Fri, 0600 - 1800</b>	<b>Tariff 2 Mon – Thur and Fri – Mon, 1800 - 0600</b>	<b>Tariff 3 1800, 24 Dec to 0400, 27 Dec and 1800, 31 Dec to 0400, 2 January</b>			<b>WLC (from 22/05/24)</b>
Initial period of waiting (40 secs) and initial hire < 176 yards	Up to 2 passengers	£3.00	£3.40	£5.10		Soiling - £40.00 Each additional adult (>12yrs) - £0.60	
1. Each additional 40 seconds of waiting time 2. Every additional 176 yards		£0.20	£0.20	£0.30		Each additional child (5 – 12 yrs) - £0.20 Each piece of luggage - £0.20	

3. Combination of 1 and 2						(max £0.40 per hire) Item or luggage requiring assistance of driver - £6.00 Cancellation - £3.00 Engagement - £1.00	
		<b>Tariff 1</b> <b>Mon – Fri</b> <b>0600 – 1800</b>	<b>Tariff 2</b> <b>Mon – Fri</b> <b>1800 – 0600</b> <b>Fri – Mon</b> <b>1800 – 0600</b>	<b>Tariff 3</b> <b>24/12 – 27/12</b> <b>1800 – 0600</b> <b>31/12 – 03/01</b> <b>1800 – 0600</b>			<b>MLC (from 02/11/2022)</b>
Initial period of waiting <60 seconds Initial hire < 339m Combination of above	Up to 2 passengers	£3.00	£3.80	£4.50		Cleaning - £50.00 Additional adults - £0.20 Engagement - £0.60	
Each additional 30 seconds of waiting Each additional 168.3m Combination of above		£0.25	£0.25	£0.40		Cancellation - £2.00 Airport charges – responsibility of passenger (waiting, setting down, picking up)	
		<b>Tariff 1</b> <b>Social hours</b>	<b>Tariff 2</b> <b>Unsocial hours (2200 – 0600)</b>	<b>Tariff 3</b> <b>1800, 24 Dec to 0600, 27 Dec and 1800, 31 Dec to 0600, 3 January</b>			<b>Scot Borders</b> (proposed and to be confirmed following appeal to Commissioner)



Initial hire (96.78 yards thereafter) Each 152.76 yards or part thereafter.	1 – 4 passengers	£3.00  £0.20  £0.20	£3.70 (77.43 yards)  £0.20 (each 122 yards) £0.30	£3.45  £0.30  £0.30		Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £100.00	
Waiting time - After 95 secs, each 55 secs							
Initial hire (96.78 yards thereafter) Each 152.76 yards or part thereafter	5 – 8 passengers	£4.50  £0.30  £0.30	£5.50 (77.43 yards)  £0.30 (each 122 yards) £0.50	£5.10  £0.50  £0.50			
Waiting time - After 95 secs, each 55 secs							
		<b>Tariff 1</b> Mon – Fri, 0600 – 1800	<b>Tariff 2</b> Mon – Fri, 1800 – 0600 and Sat – Mon, 0600 - 0600	<b>Tariff 3</b> Mon – Fri, 0600 – 1800 During Xmas & NY period (1800, 24/12 to 0600, 27/12 and 1800, 31/12 to 0000, 02/01)	<b>Tariff 4</b> Mon – Fri 1800 – 0600 All day if Xmas & NY are a Sat or Sun		<b>CEC</b> (from 09/12/2024)
Initial period of waiting (105 secs) and Initial hire < 451m	Up to 3 passengers	£3.60	£4.80	£4.60	£5.75	Soiling - £50.00 >3 passengers - £0.40 Engagement - £0.80 Cancellation - £2.20	
1. Each additional 148m up to 1783m,		£0.30	£0.30				

thereafter each additional 172m. 2. Each additional 32 secs of waiting time. 3. Combination of 1 & 2						Airport charge – Amount charged at gate subject to max. of £6 (providing no more than actual charge)	
1. Each additional 162m up to 1909m, thereafter each additional 187m. 2. Each additional 34 secs of waiting time. 3. Combination of 1 & 2				£0.40	£0.52		

All other LAs charge different rates depending on the number of passengers.

Check with Alan Kelley/Bruce Moffat/Colin Squance re logistics of introducing more criteria to fares e.g. additional passengers etc.

LA	Distance	Initial charge	Distance thereafter	Distance charge	Additional waiting time	Total
ELC	(8800 yds)	£3.60	8086.3	£13.44	£1.92	£18.96
MLC	(8046.72m)	£3.00	7707.72	£11.50	£2.50	£17.00
WLC	(8800 yds)	£3.00	8624	£9.80	£1.60	£14.40
SBC	(8800 yds)	£3.00	8703.22	£11.40	£1.20	£15.60
CEC	(8046.72m)	£3.60	7595.72	£2.70 + £10.92 = £	£2.81	£20.03

5 mile journey comparison

5 mins additional waiting time

2 passengers

Tariff 1