## DWYFOR TAXI ASSOCIATION C/O 14 PLAS TARALLT PWLLHELI GWYNEDD LL53 5EE

Gwynedd Council,				
Regulatory Department,				
Public Protection Service,				
Embankment Road,				
PWLLHELI,				
Gwynedd. LL53 5AA				

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Dear Sir/Madam,

## Re: <u>LICENCE FEES FOR DRIVERS, HACKNEY CARRIAGES, PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND</u> OPERATORS 2013/14

Further to your letter dated the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013, we raise the following points:-

We note your comments that taxi licence fees have been maintained relatively low for some years but we also point out that there have been two increases in the last few years.

In relation to your comment regarding the cost of processing licences issued we were led to believe by the Licensing Office that there are at least 500 vehicles and 500+ drivers on your books which once again, we are led to believe, is generating around £100,000 income for the Council; surely the cost of processing such licences does not exceed this amount as we, the taxi owners, pay for everything from the brackets to hold the licences to the actual licence plates themselves. Please clarify when you state that the income generated does not cover the cost of processing the licences. We cannot see that there should be an annual budgetary deficit whether it is in the current economic climate or not.

Some customers are already complaining that taxi fares are very expensive and in order for us to keep up with your proposed raise in percentage, we would of course have to consider our fares

bearing in mind you will always find a few taxis that will undercut and not follow the fare guides issued.

The Licensing Officer is only in Pwllheli for one day a week and this is not really acceptable. If we require a meeting on any of the other days we may have to go as far as Dolgellau to have this meeting. As you appreciate this would in effect cost us half a day to a full day's loss of income. Furthermore, the Officer does not make his presence known and is never out carrying out vehicle checks during the day or night.

We feel as taxi drivers that there is no support from the Council i.e. when an issue is raised it is never seen to be taking notice and it feels as though the issue is completely ignored. There are no follow up to complaints given to the Council. A prime example of this is illegal advertising and operating; it seems that every matter is brushed under the carpet and ignored.

Issues have been raised with the Council regarding the plying for hire of private hire on the streets on a daily basis; PSV minibuses and also out of area taxis i.e Arfon in Dwyfor and vice versa.

All the above have been raised previously in various meetings but no action is ever taken and the problem is increasing and makes it difficult for the legal taxi drivers to earn a proper living and that is without mentioning that the general public are being put in danger without their knowledge in most cases.

The Council issue licences to taxis without meters and therefore these vehicles cannot be legal whereas we follow the correct procedure before obtaining a meter.

We feel that if the Council was seen to listen and act upon issues raised in meetings held or otherwise in a private meeting; it may be the case that an objection for taxi licence fee increases would not cause such an issue for us.

We would appreciate your comments regarding the above. It may well be the case that these issues are not directly in connection with the increase of fees but it makes it very difficult to justify these proposed increases when we feel that we are always ignored. It seems that it is quite an easy decision for the Council to just decide to increase our licence fees when they feel they need to without a proper and just explanation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,





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WAVE CARS.	LLS3 FED	Allas
Guynedd toes	LL5385M	Glevons
LLANBEDROG TAXIS	LLS3 7NR	910
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