

15 Y Grugan  
Y Groeslon  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL54 7TA  
15/07/2014

John C Reynolds  
Regulatory Department  
Swyddfa Ardal Dwyfor  
Ffordd y Cob  
Pwllheli  
Gwynedd  
LL53 5AA

Dear Mr Reynolds

With reference to your recent circular in relation to reviewing Licence fees for drivers and operators. I would like to object to the level of those price rises yet again this year.

Gwynedd Taxi Driving Licence and operator fees have increased by a staggering amount since 2012

2011	£59
2012 + 35%	£80
2013 + 28%	£102.50
2014 + 20%	£122.77 (proposed)

### **A percentage rise in three years of 108%**

You claim in your circular that Gwynedd Council have undertaken a further review of the costs associated with the licensing of hackney and private hire vehicles. Under the Freedom of Information Act I would request that I receive a copy of that review. It is my intention to refer these proposed rises to the Local Government Ombudsman.

As a fee paying taxi operator I am not getting value for money from the Council, an annual letter informing me that charges are increasing is my only correspondence from your department. It would be far more beneficial for my business to know why **some operators** have been issued with Arfon Hackney Plates???

Why has no circular been sent about something so important, and which is totally contrary to the Council's latest guidelines and devalues all our businesses by thousands of pounds?

A policy of re-issuing hackney plates will greatly reduce the provision for disabled persons in Arfon, why would I spend a premium in getting a purpose

built vehicle (12 months ago I spent £16000) when I can pay £900 for any category C car from a salvage agent as some operators are doing.

I would like to employ more drivers but the increasing costs that the council are imposing on the industry makes that task of enrolling drivers and even keeping drivers more difficult.

We need the Council were seen to be pro-active in supporting the industry in Gwynedd, policing the rules and regulations that we are all supposed to abide by. Gwynedd Council and its Officers have no idea what is going on within the taxi industry, but it is about time that they were made accountable for their inaction.

I hope that the Licensing Committee take notice of the points that I have tried to make.

Yours Faithfully

*John Pritchard*

John H Pritchard