

Oddi wrth: Trwyddedu <Trwyddedu@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>

Anfonwyd: Dydd Mawrth, 8 Rhagfyr 2020 13:01

Pwnc: Covid - 19 Support

Pwysigrwydd/Importance: Uchel

Dear Mr O'Neal,

Thank you for your e mail below dated the 1st of December. I do agree with you that the unprecedented effects of the covid 19 pandemic has had a very negative impact on many businesses over the last 9 months . The tough restrictions placed on hospitality, travel and school closures during the first lockdown has had a substantial impact on the taxi trade. We note that many companies have decided not to renew all of their fleet vehicle licences due to a drop in demand and many drivers have been left seeking alternative employment.

As a licensing authority we will be undertaking a review of all licence fees within the next few months. The legislation states that fees must be reviewed so as to ensure that they are fair and proportionate, and that fees are not charged at a rate over and above the actual costs of processing, granting and issuing of licences . Once the fees have been reviewed , the members of the licensing committee will be required to consider the fees, and make a decision on whether or not the fees should be changed.

I will be sending your e mail on to members of the licensing committee as requested ; and will kindly request that consideration is given to the effects of the covid 19 pandemic when a decision is to be made during the fee setting process at the beginning of the year.

The councillors will set the fees on a cost recovery basis; and the proposals will be subject to public consultation; allowing the taxi trade an opportunity to comment.

In the meantime , taxi companies experiencing difficulties can discuss options with our finance department for spreading the costs of licences, or the renewal of some licences; such as annual vehicle licences can be deferred until such time as business picks up enough for the vehicles to be licenced for use again.

There is also financial help available for many small businesses adversely affected by the covid 19 restrictions. It is my understanding that the take up of qualifying grants from Welsh Government by the taxi trade has been low – and we would encourage you and all the other businesses in the trade to make enquires as to the financial help available. Some information has been e mailed out to the trade with relevant information on grants; but here are some links to information on the financial help available currently –

Gwynedd Council – Business Support

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/businesscovid19>

<https://twitter.com/BusnesGwynedd>

Gwynedd Business Network

<https://www.gwyneddbusnes.net/>
<https://twitter.com/gwyneddbusnes>

Business Wales

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>
<https://twitter.com/businesswales>

I hope the information in these links provide some assistance.

Sincerely

Gwenan Mai Roberts

Rheolwr Gwarchod y Cyhoedd | Public Protection Manager
Rheolaeth Llygredd a Thrwyddedu | Pollution Control and Licensing