



12th March 2018

Licensing Department
Swale House
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 3HT

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Consultation of Hackney Carriage Fares.

I write to express my concern and opposition to an increase in taxi fares in Swale.

I am a 84 year old man who is awaiting to have a knee replacement shortly and as a result have to travel by taxi quite a lot and I find once the £2.80 initial charge has started, from my residence to the A2 road which is a very short distance, possibly 500 yards, the fare has risen to at least £3.00 and if the cab has to wait to get out onto the main road the fare can escalate quite rapidly and the meter very quickly rises as it is in normal circumstances.

If taxi fares are increased it will force me on to public transport which whilst free to me with a KCC bus pass it does not take me near enough to the shops I wish to use, especially now the buses stop at the rear of the Forum instead of like they used to, in Sittingbourne High Street. Moreover, if I use a taxi it will obviously cost me more if the fares are increased.

Taxi drivers and their Employers should consider they have other competition now in Arriva "Click & Collect" mini buses which are cheaper than taxi's and other people may revert them. I personally feel the fare rate charged at present is sufficient. There are so many taxis standing idle outside the railway station and in the Forum car park at times that if they can't earn sufficient I wonder why so many of the drivers are still working as taxi drivers.

Yours sincerely,

