

From: Julius Anika [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2021 [REDACTED]
To: Anthony Garnett
Subject: Re: Taxi and Private Hire Support Grant Scheme

Dear Anthony

Thank you for your email. Yes I am objecting to the fees increase. I think most drivers are really struggling during this pandemic and for the local authority to be increasing license fees at this time will be completely insensitive of drivers and operators plight.

Many thanks.

Julius.

Sent from my iPhone

On 2 Mar 2021, at 13:20, Anthony Garnett <anthony.garnett@tmbc.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Julius,

Thank you for your email in respect to the proposed fee increases.

I fully understand and appreciate that trading times are tough and I understand your concerns.

As we are in the 28 Notice period, I have to ask if you are objecting to the fee increase? If you are, I need to convene a meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee to consider your objection.

Please let me know.

I will feed back your information on what Manchester has actioned for their licensed vehicles.

Regards

Anthony

Anthony Garnett
Head of Service for Licensing, Community Safety and Customer Service
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

<image001.jpg>

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Sent: 17 February 2021, 16:25
To: Licensing Services <Licensing.Services@tmhc.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Taxi and Private Hire Support Grant Scheme

Hi Licensing

It's quite disappointing to read your email about proposed increases in license fees during this pandemic when most drivers aren't even working due to lack of fare and those that do spend an average of 3 hours on the rank to get one job.

As you may already be aware, taxi business are amongst the hardest hit trade during this pandemic and to suggest that drivers should be paying extra for license is quite frankly appalling. My expectation is that the local authority should be supporting drivers at this difficult time not making their life harder.

Can I please draw your attention to the thread on this email on how Manchester City council is supporting their drivers with one year free vehicle licence renewals and MOTs.

Shouldn't you guys be looking at doing similar thing to support the drivers in Tonbridge and Malling? I hope you give this email a serious consideration.

Many thanks.

Julius.

Begin forwarded message:

On Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 16:25, Taxis Noreply
<Taxis.Noreply@manchester.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Licence Holder

The Licensing Unit have been allocated £1.5m (out of £15m) of Government funding to create grant scheme to support our licence holders whose business has been significantly impacted by COVID-19.

In order to make the scheme as simple as possible for our licence holders, we will not require individuals to submit an application for a grant or provide evidence of financial impact against fixed business costs. As such, all existing vehicle licence holders will be automatically eligible for a grant payment as follows:

- **Every current Vehicle Licence holder will get their next licence renewal paid for from the grant**
- **Every routine vehicle test (on existing licences) will be paid for by the grant for 12 months**

License holders must have a licence due for renewal between 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2022 to be able to claim the grant.

FAQs

Will I have to apply for the grant?

No, you are deemed automatically eligible for the grant if you have a vehicle licence with us. When you renew your licence or book in your next vehicle test, you will not have

behalf at each transaction.

Will new vehicle licence applicants be able to obtain the grant?

No, this scheme is only available to our existing licence holders on the date the scheme goes live.

I have just renewed my vehicle licence – can I get it refunded through the grant?

No, unfortunately we cannot work retrospectively. All vehicle licence holders will benefit from the grant within the 12 month period it is running.

Is there a restriction if I have more than one vehicle?

No, if you are a vehicle licence holder you will be able to access the grant for each vehicle licence (and related vehicle tests) you hold.

Why are drivers not included?

The Licensing Unit was only allocated a fixed amount of £1.5m. If we were to simply divide the total equally among all licence holders, this would amount to less than £140 per licence holder. Options for allocating the amount across the different licence types were looked at against the ARG funding criteria. In order for a driver licensee to be eligible, an application process requiring supporting evidence would be required as it is our understanding that the funding cannot be used to simply cover lost 'wage' income. This would be administratively burdensome.

We are also very aware that vehicle licence holders are most under pressure at the moment, with the pending proposals under the Clean Air Plan and Minimum Licensing Standard, and have the financial burden of the ongoing vehicle maintenance at this difficult time. In addition to this, we know that the vast majority of our drivers renewed with us in 2018/19 with 3 year licences and we have been able to offer the minority that are due to renew in the next 12 months, the option of a one year licence at the reduced cost of £117.

Therefore, following discussions with Members, it was agreed that the ARG funding scheme would be best used supporting our vehicle licence holders as much as possible.

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