

I would like to object to the increase in my taxi licence rates for the following reasons.

- 1) Since deregulation so many licences have been granted to such a small town that there is nowhere to ply my trade legally. There is not enough rank space to work from.
- 2) I cannot bid against other areas on fair basis because all their fees are less than mine and they do not have the same policies in place.
- 3) There are many costly rules in the Wyre Forest District like training costs for NVQ level2, and the Disability Awareness Course necessary for taxi drivers in this area. CRBs are more expensive here and all fees.
- 4) The policy in this area for wheelchair only cabs on the ranks makes it too costly already. I haven't got over £20,000.00 to spend and don't want any further increases.
- 5) The busses congestion in town makes it impossible to get off the rank with my fare already on and the meter running. This upsets the customers and I am unable to get through to work properly.
- 6) I understand that all office admin is now done by Worcestershire Regulatory Services and several redundancies have taken place in the local licensing office, this was done to cut the costs, so, why the rise in rates to the taxi drivers?
- 7) As this area is already the most expensive (apart from Worcs. City) to work in then it should be the last not the first to be charged more.

As there has been no consultation with anyone over this increase I would like to suggest that the rate rise to be deferred until there is complete uniformity with regard to, regulations, policies and costs throughout Worcestershire under the Worcestershire Regulatory Services which has been set up to use fewer resources and hopefully will be more effective and efficient.