

30 March 2022



Licensing and Support Services Manager  
Redditch Borough Council  
C/o Worcestershire Regulatory Services  
Wyre Forest House  
Finepoint Way,  
Kidderminster,  
DY11 7WF

Dear Sir,

Re: **Variation of the table of fares for Hackney Carriages -  
Public Notice on page 40 in the Redditch Advertiser 30 March 2022.**

I'm writing to object to the table of fares shown.

In previous years I've written objecting to the use of yards and miles.

[Some previous correspondence is attached]

This is NOT a Brexit issue. I've explained previously the legislation about the use of imperial units (miles, and yards) only applies to Highway traffic signage. And if you didn't know the DfT Highways Manual uses only metric units – and also the countdown markers at an exit from a motorway are spaced at 100 metre intervals.

**The taxi tariffs should ONLY be in metric units, (metres and kilometres).  
A colleague described the advertised table as a '*dog's breakfast type of document*'!**

Earlier I referred to the taxi tariff for Oxford City which is much easier to understand. However, it's obvious that the values are just conversions, for example:  
53.6 metres = 1/3 mile; 1608 metres = 1 mile; 6432 metres = 4 miles.

Surely RBC officers are capable of producing a simple table showing equivalent fares, *for example*:

Cost (£) **per km**,

Cost (£) **per 250 m**,

plus, other suitable values like 5 km.

And please make the values sensible integers – no conversions producing decimal places!

Thank you.

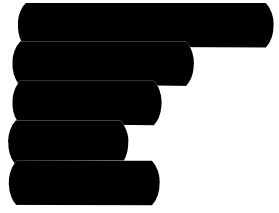
Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Philip Bladon

~~COPY~~  
24 August 2018

30 Mar 2022



Licensing and Support Services Manager  
Redditch Borough Council  
C/o Worcestershire Regulatory Services  
Wyre Forest House  
Finepoint Way,  
Kidderminster,  
Worcestershire  
DY11 7WF

Dear Sir,

Re: Variation of the table of fares for Hackney Carriages  
– Public Notice in the Redditch Advertiser 22 August 2018.

I lodge an objection, and urge the Council to use metric units.  
Replace the yards with metres, and re-calculate the 'per mile' to the equivalent  
'per kilometre'.

I know the tariffs for Oxford City and Worcester City are in metric.  
The table for Oxford is much clearer to understand than Worcester's.  
Here are the links:

[https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20087/taxi\\_licensing/77/hackney\\_carriage\\_fare\\_chart](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20087/taxi_licensing/77/hackney_carriage_fare_chart)  
and  
<https://www.worcester.gov.uk/vehicle-licensing>

**[A print out of these is enclosed]**

I raised this matter in 2011 and received correspondence from Mrs Garratt.  
I pointed out her error in my letter dated 18 March 2011. This is also enclosed.

Finally metrication has nothing to do with Brexit, and the EU, it is the International  
System of Measurement.

**I sincerely hope Redditch Borough Council will adopt a taxi fare table that  
shows only metric units, like for example, Oxford or Broxbourne.**

Yours faithfully,



Philip Bladon

Copy: Councillor Gareth Prosser (Portfolio holder which includes WRS)

*COPY*  
18 March 2011

*30 Mar 2022*

[REDACTED]

**Attention: Mrs S Garratt**  
Licensing Section  
(Worcestershire Regulatory Services)  
Redditch Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Walter Stranz Square  
Redditch B98 8AH

Dear Mrs Garratt,

**Proposed Fare Tariffs - Your letter dated 11 March 2011**

With reference to your last sentence it fails to answer my concerns.

In your letter you say 'all local authorities advertise and display their current tariff in miles and yards', this is wrong. I provide you with the following examples to illustrate local authorities where correct units are published:

- Broxbourne Council  
[http://www.broxbourne.gov.uk/transport\\_and\\_streets/taxis\\_and\\_private\\_hire/taxi\\_hire.aspx](http://www.broxbourne.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/taxis_and_private_hire/taxi_hire.aspx)
- Oxford City Council  
<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decB/TaxiFares.htm>

Your reference to the 'new EU Directive' (March 2009) is not relevant. The relevant law is the UK's Units of Measurement Regulations 1986 as amended. These Regulations repeat the wording of the Directive - that is, "road traffic signs, distance and speed measurement." The exemption clearly only applies to distances and speed measurements on road traffic signs (otherwise the regulations would have just said "distances and speed measurements" without qualification). Since taxi meters are not "road traffic signs", they are not covered by the exemption, and the law therefore requires that distances should be expressed in metres and kilometres.

By looking at the information provided by Broxbourne Council and Oxford City Council you will see the fares are charged using metric units.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Philip Bladon

[REDACTED]

*(PTC for Mrs Garratt's letter)*

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REPLY dated 11 March FROM Mrs S Garratt

Proposed Fare Tariffs Notice published in the  
Redditch Advertiser 23 February 2011

Thank you for your letter dated 3 March 2011.

Units of measurement, as you have pointed out, are subject to European law in order to ensure consistency of measurement across member states and to ensure that the use of different units does not create a barrier to trade or restrict the free movement of goods and services across the European Community.

Originally, it was intended that the use of all imperial measures would be phased out but the United Kingdom negotiated exemptions for certain measures; these included the mile, yard, foot and inch for road traffic signs, distance and speed measurement.

In March 2009 a new EU Directive came into force to reflect the intention and to allow exemptions and supplementary indications to continue indefinitely.

I can confirm that nationally all local authorities advertise and display their current tariff in miles and yards - simply because the taxi tariff on the meter held within a Hackney Carriage displays the same. It would also be confusing to the passenger for the driver to display the price he has to pay in metric style, when road signage is in miles and yards.

I trust this letter answers your queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Garratt  
Senior Practitioner (Licensing)  
Worcestershire Regulatory Services

On behalf of Redditch Borough Council