

ADVERT DATE: 9 MAY 2024

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### REVIEW OF TAXI FARES

In accordance with the requirements of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Highland Council is reviewing the maximum level of charges for the hire of Taxis or Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters.

It is proposed that with effect from August 2024, the maximum fares will be as follows:-

**Tariff 1:** Applies to vehicles carrying up to 4 passengers, except when a higher tariff applies.

- For the first 785 yards or part; or £3.70  
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or  
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 82 yards or part; or .10p  
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or  
A combination of additional time and distance as above

**General effect – the price of a hire £4.90 for the first mile plus £2.20 per mile thereafter plus extras\***

**Tariff 2:** Applies to vehicles carrying up to 4 passengers on Good Friday, Easter Monday or May Day and, except when a higher tariff applies, between **9.00pm and 7.00am on any day** and all day on Saturday and Sunday. When 5 or more passengers are being carried, it also applies **at any time** of any day or night, except where a higher tariff applies.

- For the first 560 yards or part; or £ 4.00  
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or  
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 65 yards or part; or .10p  
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or  
A combination of additional time and distance as above

**General effect – the price of a hire £5.90 for the first mile plus £2.70 per mile thereafter plus extras\***

**Tariff 3:** Applies between 6am and midnight on both Boxing Day and 2<sup>nd</sup> January. When 5 or more passengers are being carried, and except where Tariff 5 applies, it also applies between **9.00pm and 7.00am**, all day on Saturday and Sunday and on Good Friday, Easter Monday and May Day.

- For the first 444 yards or part £ 4.70  
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or  
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 54 yards or part .10p  
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or  
A combination of additional time and distance as above

**General effect – the price of a hire £7.20 for the first mile plus £3.30 per mile thereafter plus extras\***

**Tariff 4:** Applies to vehicles carrying up to 4 passengers at any time between 6.00pm on Christmas Eve and 6.00am on Boxing Day and between 6.00pm on New Year's Eve and 6.00am on 2 January.

- For the first 444 yards or part; or £4.70  
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or  
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 41 yards or part, or .10p  
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or  
A combination of additional time and distance as above

**General effect – the price of a hire: £8.00 for the first mile plus £4.30 per mile thereafter plus extras\***

**Tariff 5:** Applies to vehicles carrying 5 or more passengers at any time between 6.00pm on Christmas Eve and 6.00am on Boxing Day and between 6.00pm on New Year's Eve and 6.00am on 2 January.

- For the first 444 yards or part; or £4.70  
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or  
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 32 yards or part, or .10p  
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or  
A combination of additional time and distance as above

**General effect – the price of a hire: £8.90 for the first mile plus £5.50 per mile thereafter plus extras\***

**\*Extra Charges**

- Booking ahead e.g. by telephone £1.00
- Any bridge tolls or ferry charges, where applicable.
- Any airport car parking charges (Only chargeable on production of a receipt to the hirer)

In addition, a supplementary booking charge may be applied to compensate for the cost of the outward journey. The maximum charge shall be the actual cost at the tariff which applies at the time of travelling between the starting location of the taxi and the pick-up point or drop-off point. This booking charge is in addition to the fare chargeable at the appropriate tariff for the journey from the pick-up point to the drop-off point. This charge may only be demanded if the customer is informed of the amount of the charge at the time of booking.

When a taxi (or a private hire car fitted with a taxi meter) is called but not used, a charge shall be allowed as if it had been occupied from the time it left the stance or garage.

**Soiling Charge** – maximum of £150.00 payable by an offending passenger, where a vehicle requires to be removed from service for cleaning in order for it to be restored to a usable state and condition.

**Luggage Charge** – A maximum charge of £5.00 be introduced for the carriage of bulky items which cannot be reasonably accommodated in the boot of the vehicle being hired. This charge may only be demanded if the customer is informed of the amount of the charge at the time of booking. For the avoidance of any doubt, this will not apply to any items designed to assist the mobility of users such as wheelchairs or walking aids.

## **General effect of changes**

**No change to any of the tariffs. The only change is in relation to the supplementary booking charge which may be applied to compensate for the cost of the outward journey. The current tariff permits a driver to apply an additional charge where the journey commences 3 miles or more away from the taxi or taxi base. The reference to 3 miles has now been removed and drivers can now apply the supplementary booking charge regardless of the distance they are from the customer's pick up point.**

**The Council hereby invites the public to submit written representations about these proposals.**

Please write to the Principal Solicitor (Regulatory Services) at the address shown below or send an e-mail to [licensing@highland.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@highland.gov.uk) by **Friday 7 June 2024**. Representations received will be considered by the Highland Licensing Committee on 25 June 2024 before the new tariff is agreed.

Iain Meredith,  
Principal Solicitor (Regulatory Services),  
The Highland Council,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
Dingwall,  
IV15 9QN.

9 May 2024