

# APPENDIX 4

## Steve Wearing

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**Subject:** Taxi Fares

**From:**

**Sent:** 05 April 2022 19:19

**To:** Steve Wearing <Steve.Wearing@sunderland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Taxi Fares

Dear Mr Wearing,

Re: Your email 30th March, 2022

Please note that my objections are not withdrawn and please find below my reply to each of the numbered questions you have asked me.

Question 1:

Thank you - I do continue to object as I believe my observations are bona fide in that the Committee should consider that other than Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays, all others should be charged at a standard rate. Most other occupations in the private sector no longer receive enhanced salaries for bank holiday working and on that basis, I feel that the Committee need to understand that many people using taxi services are suffering the pressures of higher costs across a large range of consumer and transport expenditure - it is simply unfair that those who rely upon taxis to undertake their day to day activities (many of whom are doing so to care for others, or undertake simple shopping or leisure journeys), should have to incur significant additional costs for taxis, when the same taxi drivers are receiving a quite significant rise across the remainder of their fare structure. Let us consider the financial difficulties ordinary people find themselves in respect of this matter and share the burden as opposed to shifting it to many taxi users who simply cannot afford to pay the additional fares. I must say, I am rather surprised that a Labour Council would push through such taxi fare rises without due consideration to the problems being faced by their residents across the City.

Question 2:

I consent to my e-mail being included in your Committee Report but only on the basis that, as this being a public record/meeting, any information identifying my **name, home address and e-mail address** are redacted, as you suggest.

Question 3:

I agree. Note response to 2 above, my name should also be redacted please.

Question 4:

Thank you for the offer for me to attend the meeting of the Committee, but I really don't think that is necessary. I feel that I have said all that I intend to say in respect of the matter and any Committee with genuine concern for their residents will surely understand that the burden of increased costs for taxi drivers should not fall entirely to the taxi using public.

Question 5b:

My objections refer only to 5b. The modest rise in tariffs is not part of my objection, but please note the Committee, in my view, should put themselves in the position of taxi users, many of whom are financially struggling and cannot afford to pay for significant rises in fares. The increase may well be reasonable, but I maintain that it is totally unreasonable to expect taxi users to pay enhanced fares on all Bank Holidays, which is why I suggest that the only Bank Holidays where enhanced fares should be applicable are Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Other Council areas in the region and beyond, have not authorised such enhanced fares for all Bank Holidays, so why should Sunderland authorise it?

Yours sincerely,