

Milton Keynes Hackney Carriage Association 2011

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Friday, 30 August 2013

Dino Imbimbo.
Committee Manager
Milton Keynes Council
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

For the attention of the Regulatory Committee meeting 18th September 2013

Dear Councillor Burke and all members of the Regulatory Committee

REF: Application for the re-regulation of hackney carriages in Milton Keynes

Please find attached, a copy of our submission, dated 6 April 2011. The reason this has been enclosed with our letter to you today, is so that you can remind yourself of what the trade has asked for in the past with the conditions as they were in April 2011.

The conditions, now two years on, as the above date, are far worse. I've already said at previous meetings how the trade is on its knees that the ever decreasing spiral web just keeps getting deeper and still they keep coming. Currently, the average takings for a ten to twelve hour shift is £50.00 and when you consider that only 40% of the takings is taxable, in accountancy terms, £20.00 a day is well below the current minimum wage and not acceptable.

We, in the taxi industry are eagerly awaiting the final report from the Law Commissioners who, as you are aware, have been reviewing the taxi trade for the last two years. Their final report is due out in November. In April this year we were treated to the interim report when the Law Commission opened by saying that they now consider that local councils are best placed to determine how many taxis each district should license, in other words, the trade in England and Wales should be regulated.

Being minded that Milton Keynes Council paid for an unmet demand survey in November 2011, the Council should be able to determine the number of licenced taxis required from

that survey without spending thousands upon thousands of pounds on more unmet demand surveys.

Currently, whenever I speak on the subject of the taxi trade in Milton Keynes, I seem to be repeating myself over and over again:

- 1) Drivers not earning enough
- 2) Poor vehicle maintenance
- 3) Low moral
- 4) Working long hours
- 5) No incentive to work
- 6) Not enough custom for the number of taxis on the road
- 7) Proprietors failing to uphold their repayments to finance companies

When I asked a Council Officer in Taxi Licencing today, 'Can you tell me how many licensed hackneys there are too date including temporary plates, he replied that he didn't know.

Please, please, please stop issuing hackney carriage vehicle licences and let those who want to earn a living by providing a taxi services in Milton Keynes, do just that.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Kirkham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter E Kirkham
Executive Chair