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TFL ANNOUNCES 3.4% TAXI FARE INCREASE FOR 2009

New fares, which will come into effect on Saturday 4 April 2009, were approved by the TfL Board on 10 February, following consultation by the Public Carriage Office with the taxi trade and others, including London TravelWatch. An average taxi passenger fare will increase by 3.4% for the next financial year. There will be no change in the flagfall, and the distance and time per meter unit will change to give the increase in average fares in all three tariffs.

Fares are calculated by TfL using a long established, retrospective cost index based on national average earnings and taxi operating costs. National average earnings have increased by 3.3 per cent and operating costs have gone up by 3.7 per cent this year, including an increase of 4.1 per cent in the cost of diesel fuel.

The TfL Board said that it recognised the importance of keeping fare increases to a minimum in the present economic climate while maintaining the link between taxi fares and national average earnings (and other costs). Ed Thompson, Taxi and Private Hire Director at the Public Carriage Office, told Taxi Globe: "These new fares take into account the increased costs over the year of running a black cab. The increase reflects changes in national average earnings and encourages taxi drivers to provide a top quality service in London."

ADDITIONAL CHARGE IF FUEL HITS 147.1P PER LITRE

The Board has also authorised a 40p metered extra to be charged only if fuel prices hit 147.1p per litre between 4 April 2009 and 1 January 2010. If the additional charge is introduced, it will be added to the meter by the driver at the start of each trip. The amount of the extra button is being reduced this year to 40p in order to lower the threshold and reduce the extra costs drivers will have to bear before these can be passed to passengers.

TAXI LICENCE FEES

An increase in the annual taxi licence fee, from £160 to £164, will take effect from 1 April 2009. With the exception of the licence fee increase in July 2007 to cover the cost of the mid-year inspection, which was then scrapped in November 2008, taxi licence fees have not increased since April 2004. TfL say that annual inflationary increases from 2004 would have seen taxi licence fees at £172 effective from April 2009, £8 higher than the proposed increase to £164.

Licence fees cannot be used to raise revenue or make a profit - they can only be set to cover the costs incurred by the PCO in processing applications.

PCO Notice 03/09

Transport for London

Public Carriage Office



Revised Licence Fees

Transport for London has set the following new fees with effect from 1 April 2009

	Current Fee	New Fee
Taxi application/inspection	£107	£111
Taxi annual licence	£53	£53
Private hire vehicle application/inspection	£82	£87
Private hire vehicle annual licence	£27	£27

There are no changes to taxi driver, private hire driver and private hire operator licence fees.

Len Simkins
Head of Strategy and Planning

10 February 2009

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