

**West Lothian Council Taxi fare scales review 2020**

In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council as Licensing Authority is required to review the maximum fares that taxis operating within West Lothian may charge and to set scales. The 1982 Act requires that this should be within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect.

The fares approved by the Council are maximum fares which may be charged. Taxi operators are able to discount these rates if they wish. Whilst it is obligatory to review fare levels periodically, there is no obligation to alter the existing fares.

The Scottish Government's Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing: Best Practice for Licensing Authorities issued in April 2012 states that authorities are advised as best practice to pay regard to advice contained in paragraphs 2.34-2.37 of Scottish Department Circular 25/1986. This states that:

**“in fixing fares, authorities will want to pay primary regard to the costs incurred by the trade, having regard to the capital costs (including interest payments) of the vehicles, the costs of maintaining and replacing them to a standard of the licensing authority, of employing drivers and the prevalent level of wages and costs in related road transport industries. The public interest is best served by ensuring the maintenance of an adequate taxi service by giving the trade a fair return rather than depressing fares for social reasons, however understandable.”**

In light of this guidance, we have provided figures supplied by the Government's Office of National Statistics (ONS). The main index is the Consumer Price Index which is a measure of consumer price inflation produced to international standards. The indexes used are CPIH indexes which are measures of price inflation that includes owner occupiers' housing costs.

The main index is the CPIH (all items). However, we have also included other statistics which may be relevant to the fare table review, namely 'purchase of vehicles', 'maintenance and repairs', 'petrol' and 'diesel'.

The ONS publishes regular updates on these statistics. To allow comparison between relevant times, the ONS gives figures as indices, meaning that the figures are stated relative to a stated base year or month. The base year or month always has a value of 100 so other times have values which are greater or less than 100 to show how they compare.

Comparative figures have also been provided for cost of fuel based on the AA fuel reports.

**\*\*It is open to anyone participating in the review process to suggest other factors that the Council should consider in reviewing the fares\*\***

**Inflation Figures (Consumer Price Index)**

**Start: September 2014**

**End: Jan 2020**

	Index name	Start	April 2016	April 2019	End	Change from April 2019
1	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	100	100.6	107.6	108.3	0.7%
	CPIH Index 00(2015=100) Series:L522					
2	<b>PURCHASE OF VEHICLES (all)</b>	101.1	98.6	104.9	104.6	-0.3%
	CPIH Index 07.1(2015=100) Series: L543					
	<b>PURCHASE OF NEW CARS</b>	98.2	100.4	111.7	113.4	1.7%
	CPIH Index 07.1.1A (2015=100) Series:L544					
	<b>PURCHASE OF SECOND HAND CARS</b>	105.7	95.6	94.9	91.8	-3.1%
	CPIH Index 07.1.1B (2015=100) Series:L545					
3	<b>MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS</b>	98.1	101.4	109.6	112.3	2.7%
	CPIH Index 07.2.3 (2015=100) Series:L54A					
4	<b>PETROL (start date from Jan 2015)</b>	97.6	95.4	111.8	114.4	2.6%
	CPIH Index 07.2.2.2 (2015=100) Series:J2T5					
5	<b>DIESEL (start date from Jan 2015)</b>	100.5	92.6	115.7	115.2	-0.5%
	CPIH Index 07.2.2.1 (2015=100) Series:J2SU					

**Source** – Office for National Statistics ([www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk))

Indicators are published monthly

## **AA fuel report**

<https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/driving-costs/fuel-prices>

### **January 2017**

	<b>Unleaded (litres)</b>	<b>Diesel (litres)</b>	<b>Super Unleaded (litres)</b>	<b>LPG (litres)</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	119.3	122.2	128.1	0.0
<b>UK Average</b>	119.5	122	129.9	62
<b>Supermarket average</b>	117	119.3	122.4	56.4

### **April 2019**

	<b>Unleaded (litres)</b>	<b>Diesel (litres)</b>	<b>Super Unleaded (litres)</b>	<b>LPG (litres)</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	125.1	132	136.8	64.9
<b>UK Average</b>	125.4	132	137.3	66.2
<b>Supermarket average</b>	120.9	129.2	127.1	57.5

### **January 2020**

	<b>Unleaded (litres)</b>	<b>Diesel (litres)</b>	<b>Super Unleaded (litres)</b>	<b>LPG (litres)</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	127.4	132.6	140.9	0.0
<b>UK Average</b>	128	132.7	141.1	68.5
<b>Supermarket average</b>	124.9	129.4	132.7	67.9