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Annual Testing Fees for Taxi Cabs

A breakdown of how the level of annual licensing and testing fee is calculated.

The fees are based on principally cost recovery and the last formal review of the fee structure in 2015 and thereafter adjusted for inflation based on the decisions made by the council in the Budget Process each year.

[https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/Data/Regulatory%20Committee/20150202/Agenda/\\$full_meeting_papers.xls.pdf](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/Data/Regulatory%20Committee/20150202/Agenda/$full_meeting_papers.xls.pdf) Item 6.2 from paragraph 3.6 refers. The budget decisions will be published in council papers on the website for each subsequent year.

A breakdown of the cost to the CEC / testing centre of completing annual testing for each vehicle (on average if this is different for each vehicle).

See answer above, the fee covers the whole cost of the licensing service and there is no operational need to record the information requested separately.

Details of any surplus funds accrued from annual testing fees in the past couple of years (and of how any such surplus has been spent).

As reported to committee there was a surplus largely caused by the increase in the number of PHC vehicles, this surplus is being used to fund the cost of opening the new licensing hub in 2025.

The last figures reported to committee are via the link below and an update for subsequent years will be published in a committee report in August 2025.

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s59646/7.1%20-%20Licence%20Income%20from%20Fees%20202223.pdf>

The reports on income have consistently updated committee on the intention to spend the held reserve on the new Licensing Hub.

Details of the reasoning behind the decision to keep testing “in-house” and any evidence relied upon to inform any such decision.

Following a decision of Polic Scotland to cease proving the service this Taxi examination Centre function returned to the council and committee reports in 2013 and 2014 set out the basis for that decision

https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/Data/Regulatory%20Committee/20140908/Agenda/full_meeting_papers.pdf

Details of any steps taken and information obtained regarding the cost and benefit of alternative testing options, including contracting out.

This information is not held. There was no proposal to contract out and committee agreed to the in house service provision. The information used by members to reach that decision is contained in the reports referred to above.

Details of any steps taken and information obtained regarding the cost and benefit of opening additional vehicle testing centres.

This information is not held. No such consideration was given.

Imposition of Age Limit on Taxi Cabs

Details of the reasoning behind the decision to impose an age limit on licensed vehicles and any evidence relied upon.

These were decisions made in 2018 the link below refers to the information used by committee to make their decision and the minutes and webcast of the meeting should be available on the council's website.

https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/Data/Regulatory%20Committee/20180316/Agenda/item_71_-_age_limitation_and_emissions_standards_for_taxis_and_private_hire_cars_air_quality.pdf

Imposition of Training Module of Renewal of Taxi Drivers Licence

- A breakdown of how the fee for the intermediate training is calculated.
- A breakdown of the cost to the CEC of running the intermediate training, per person.
- Details of any surplus funds accrued from intermediate training fees to date (and how any such surplus has been spent).
- Details of the reasoning behind the decision to keep training "in-house" and any evidence relied upon to inform any such decision.
- Details of any steps taken and information obtained regarding the cost and benefit of alternative testing options, including contracting out, online modules, etc.

The decision was taken in 2016 and rolled out in 2022. The background is contained in the paper below.

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s79580/8.1%20Licensing%20Training%20Taxi%20and%20Private%20Hire%20Driver%20Training%20Review.pdf>