

Please ask for: Taxi brokerage
Direct Line:
Email: caas.admin@leicester.gov.uk
Date: 16th December 2020



Dear Headteacher

Re Taxi journeys to and from school – January 2021

I am writing to advise that there may be some disruption to taxi journeys arranged by Leicester City Council to support children in getting to and from school at the start of next term. We hope this won't be the case but wanted to ensure you were aware of the risk given this is the last week of term.

The Council has been working to change the way that we pay for taxi journeys over the last 18 months. As part of this work we have looked at the prices paid for some journeys. Whilst some journeys have shown good value for money, others have shown unacceptably high charges by the taxi operators and variance in prices has been significant.

As we use public money to fund these journeys, we have a duty to ensure that we are paying a fair price and that we are not paying more than is reasonable. We have therefore made some changes to the rates that we will pay for arranged journeys. The rates on offer are above the rates paid for hackney carriages (black cabs) and we are making additional payments where a passenger assistant travels with a child.

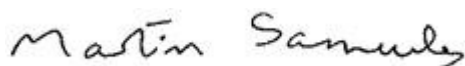
We have worked with the taxi operators and discussed these changes at every stage. We have advertised the new payment arrangements and shared these with operators over a year ago and they have all bid to deliver the work on these prices. However, in the last 2 weeks, many of these operators have said they are unwilling to deliver the journeys unless we increase the prices we pay.

The Council will continue to offer the journeys at the new prices, but there may be some disruption in the next few weeks. I appreciate that you are already operating in a very challenging environment at the moment with the pandemic. Therefore, if you are able to support any children impacted by transport difficulties to access the schools home learning offer, we would be grateful.

I have written to all parents and carers with taxi journeys arranged to let them know that there may be an impact at the start of term. I have attached a copy of the letter for your information in case of queries.

Please accept my apologies for any disruption that does occur at the start of term, I hope it's helpful to explain why we are taking this position.

Yours faithfully



Martin Samuels – Strategic Director – Social Care & Education