

Maximum Taxi fares to increase by 4% average – after Easter 2015

Taxi Regulations updated

December 19, 2014

The Board of the National Transport Authority met today (December 19) to consider the recent Taxi Fares Review and the review of Taxi Regulations. The Board decided to increase the maximum taxi fare by an average of 4%, to take effect on April 30, 2015 and to simplify the fare structure by reducing the number of fare bands.

National Maximum Taxi Fares – to take effect April 30, 2015

	Standard (08.00h-20.00h)	Premium (20.00h-8.00h and Sundays & Bank Holidays)
Initial Charge	€3.60	€4.00
Distance Allowance (m)	500	500
Time Allowance (secs)	85	85
Tariff A (Up to 15 kms)	€1.10 per km €0.39 per min	€1.40 per km €0.49 per min
Tariff B (Over 15kms)	€1.45 per km €0.51 per min	€1.75 per km €0.62 per min

A special premium rate will apply from 8.00pm on Christmas Eve to 8.00am on St. Stephen's Day and from 8.00pm on New Year's Eve to 8.00am on New Year's Day. During these periods the Initial Charge will be €4.00 and then Tariff B (night-time) applies (€1.75 per km or €0.62 per min).

Extras such as booking fee and additional passenger charge, where relevant, remain unchanged.

A formal review of the Maximum Taxi Fares order is carried out every two years, to establish the current costs of operating a taxi and to determine whether existing fare levels should change, up or down, as a result. The first such review, in 2008, applied an 8.3% increase, which was equivalent at the time to the change in taxi operation costs. Subsequent reviews in 2010 and 2012 resulted in no fares increases being applied, although an increase of 4% had been proposed at the 2012 review. Maximum taxi fares are unchanged since 2008.

The Authority's 2014 review was carried out over recent months and included consumer and driver surveys, together with benchmarking against other relevant countries. This analysis identified an increase in the cost of taxi operation since 2010. There was also an increase of 4.7% in the consumer price index over the same period.

A proposal for a fares increase of approximately 4%, inclusive of a fare structure simplification, was then put forward as part of a public consultation process. Of the 592 submissions received,

predominately from the taxi industry and including a number of multiple-signatory petitions, over 50% were in favour of an increase in maximum taxi fares.

The Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles, a body established under legislation to provide advice on taxi-related matters, was consulted, as were the other statutory consultees. The advice from the Advisory Committee supported the proposed changes to the national maximum taxi fares.

In addition, the Board decided to update the current Taxi Regulations. The changes include clarifying certain aspects in relation to the operation of taximeters, aligning fixed charge offence regulations with other recent legislation, providing for a defined list of acceptable limousine vehicles, in addition to other clarificatory changes. The annual licence renewal fees will change too from their current rate of €125. They are increasing to €150 for a standard licence and reducing to €75 for a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Current fares table - for information:

National Maximum Taxi Fare Effective from 1 November 2008			
Standard rate		Premium rate	Extras <small>Where relevant</small>
8.00h–20.00h		20.00h–8.00h & Sundays & public holidays*	Booking fee €2.00 .
INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs	€4.10 Fixed	INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs	Extra adults: second and additional passengers €1.00 each.
TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €18.70	€1.03 per km or €0.36 per min	TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €23.45	Extra children under 12: 1 free 2 or 3 €1.00 4 or 5 €2.00 6 or 7 €3.00 .
TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €38.90	€1.35 per km or €0.48 per min	TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €47.05	Road toll charges as incurred.
TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €38.90	€1.77 per km or €0.63 per min	TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €47.05	Soiling charge €140.00 .
Distance rate applies unless speed drops below 21 km/h when time rate applies.		*A special premium rate applies between Christmas Eve 20:00h to St. Stephen's Day 08:00h and New Year's Eve 20:00h to New Year's Day 08:00h. During these periods Tariff C is applied immediately after the premium rate initial charge.	