

Cllr Becky Rush
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7th July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Approved Car Mileage Rates

I am writing to you on behalf of Surrey County Council regarding the above matter.

As an employer we are doing what we can within financial constraints to help our employees. However, many are struggling to pay for fuel due to the significant rise in costs over the past few months. Like any employers we currently pay the maximum HMRC approved mileage rate of 45p per mile (25p after 10000 miles). Were we to increase these, then of course the additional amount paid would be subject to tax and our staff would not see the full benefit.

Many of our employees work in essential frontline roles such as providing care for our most vulnerable older people and keeping our children safe. They rely on their cars to do their job. These are not highly paid staff; many are paid less than the average salary in the United Kingdom. Many cannot afford to buy or lease new cars and therefore the overall cost of motoring for them is still significant. They do not enjoy the benefit of new car warranties and of course older cars need more maintenance.

It has been 10 years since approved mileage rates were last increased. At this time, petrol was 133.65p per litre (source:ITV News). Petrol is now almost, and in some cases above, £2.00 per litre: an increase of almost 50%. It can no longer be the case that these rates truly cover the full cost of motoring.

Given the above it must surely be time to increase these rates, even as a temporary measure?

I would be grateful to hear from you as to what plans are in place to deal with this issue.

Yours faithfully

Becky Rush
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