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Submission: [REDACTED] I am an owner operator of a wheelchair accessible vehicle in Newcastle for the last 3 years, driving for 6 years total. Higher cars and UberX are able to offer lower fees than me because of my extremely high overheads such as green slip which is now over \$7000, my comprehensive insurance which is over \$4,500 thousand dollars a year am My Taxi Base fees that are over \$10,000 a year, and lastly my workers compensation is over \$2000 a year which UberX does not pay.

My taxi is \$19,000 more expensive a year to run before I turn the key then any competitor.

None of these higher cost are paid by higher cars or UberX. My taxable income for three years in a row now has been below minimum wage. I am earning 30% to 50% less than my old job as a sheet metal worker ,which I had to medically retired from due to a back injury.

If I could operate with TC plates this would lower my operating costs by close to 50%.

If I could operate as a taxi without being a part of it Taxi Base but having a back up security system such as the central alarm to the Taxi Base with a reduced fee would be a massive advantage for me and I could low on my fares, maybe over the minimum wage for the first time in four years.