

It was suggested in Route one magazine to inform you of the problems the recent huge increment on parking charges at Heathrow Airport has caused.

We are a small fleet of 20 minibuses, maximum capacity 16 passengers, overall length 15feet and width 6 feet. We can fit into a parking meter space in London.

One of the arguments from BAA was that a minibus occupies a complete coach bay. This is incorrect, the length of a coach is often treble the size and if the minibuses parked laterally they would be able to fit three minibuses to every one coach parking bay.

Why should a small vehicle which holds a maximum of sixteen passengers pay the same as a coach that is capable of carrying up to 70 passengers.

Why do BAA Heathrow not work as APCOA at Gatwick and charge the minibuses 50% less than the coaches. Or raise the height restriction in the multi-storey car park and let the small minibuses park as a car. Currently 8 seater minibuses can park in the Car Park. The only reason the 16 seaters do not park there is due to the height restriction.

Why such a huge increment from **£9.53** to **£21.86?**

Many of our incoming tour operators have objected strongly. We have lost business as the operators refuse to pay £21.86 for sometimes as few as 9 passengers.

I also thought it very wrong that our coach parking tickets purchased before the increment were unacceptable unless the balance of £12.33 was paid. This had never happened in previous years the coach parking tickets were accepted until supplies were exhausted. A very unfair sharp practice.

This is the most outrageous increment in all my 20 years of business. There is a good chance that this will in fact put us out of business.

Please help BAA find a way to allow discount to small passenger minibuses. It simply is not fair!!!!

Minibus Shuttle Services Limited