

JULIA LOPEZ MP
Hornchurch & Upminster



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

9 March 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you today about the Mayor of London's expansion of the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) to the whole of Greater London.

I have enclosed with this letter a copy of my correspondence to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, on the same topic in which I have focused on concerns relating to the Mayor's powers.

My purpose in writing to you today is to highlight my own concerns, and those of my constituents, at the ULEZ expansion itself and fears that this may just be a precursor to the introduction of further road charges by the Mayor of London.

As you will be aware from my earlier discussions with Transport Minister, Richard Holden MP, my constituents and I, alongside a clear majority of Londoners, are deeply opposed to this policy which will have serious ramifications for the local community and economy. This policy disproportionately impacts the elderly and those with low incomes who are also least able to afford a new compliant vehicle. You will see from the enclosed correspondence that I am seeking further advice on whether the Government retains or is minded to acquiring new powers to prevent the implementation of this policy as any comments you can provide on this would be greatly appreciated by my constituents.

Beyond initial concerns at the appropriateness of the ULEZ expansion and the manner in which this policy decision was made, my constituents and I are concerned that the Mayor wishes to expand his road charging scheme further and that this will be facilitated by the installation of ANPR cameras across London via the ULEZ. These concerns have been heightened by reported comments by Transport for London's (TfL) Director of Transport Strategy and Policy that TfL is considering the introduction of a 'pay as you drive' road charging scheme within London. The comments were made to the Greater London Authority's Transport Committee within its investigation on Road User Charging, which the Director advised would be subject to public consultation insofar as a decision was made to pursue such a policy. Given the concerns as to how the Mayor of London conducted the consultation on the ULEZ and his total disregard for the consultation outcomes, you will appreciate that this comment provides scant reassurance to constituents.

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I note that it is reported that there is no active communication between TfL and the Department for Transport on this topic. I would therefore welcome any advice that you may offer of the Department's view on this issue and of the Mayor's ability to introduce such a charging scheme.

With best wishes,

Julia Lopez MP

Member of Parliament for Hornchurch & Upminster