

JULIA LOPEZ MP
Hornchurch & Upminster



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mayor of London
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE

31 July 2023

Dear Mr Mayor,

ULEZ Expansion

While I acknowledge that the High Court ruled on Friday that there was no legal impediment to your decision to expand the ULEZ, this legal decision does not consider the pressure that this policy will place upon the budgets of hard working Londoners, like my own constituents. I therefore join once again in the chorus of people, now extending to the Leader of the Opposition and members of the Shadow Cabinet, calling on you to reflect on this damaging expansion of the scheme.

According to the independent impact assessment of this policy it is as regressive as it is ineffectual. When considering its impact upon the people in London, sixteen negative impacts upon various communities were noted against just one minor positive impact. The scheme was estimated to have only a small positive impact in reducing Londoners' exposure to air pollution and achieving compliance with legal limits while four negative, with no positive, impacts upon London's economy were noted. Even when considering the expansion's ability to improve the health of Londoners, only a minor positive impact was expected. Put simply, the policy is ineffectual at truly improving London's overall air quality and serves only to fix TfL's finances straight from the pocket of hardworking London families and businesses.

If you proceed many of my constituents will face difficult decisions around their ability to travel for work, leisure or to fulfil vital care responsibilities to loved ones. As the public transport network in Havering is insufficient to pose a viable alternative to the use of a private vehicle, many will be forced to choose between paying this daily £12.50 tax or funding the replacement of their vehicle, without meaningful support via the limited scrappage scheme. For many these costs are simply unsustainable and are being levied in the name of a policy that is set to achieve nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter reductions of just 1.5% and 0.1% in Havering.

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London has clearly expressed to you its opposition to this policy several times; in your original consultation when 60% of all Londoners and 70% of outer-Londoners opposed the expansion; in direct protests and in the Uxbridge & South Ruislip by-election. Over 126,000 Londoners, including 963 Havering residents, have supported the Conservative Party's petition against the expansion and I have enclosed with this letter a compilation of the local community's comments as provided by a constituent. I once again implore you to listen to the overwhelming majority of Londoners, as well as those in your own party also now expressing their concerns, who oppose this deeply damaging policy and stop it.

With best wishes,

Julia Lopez MP

Member of Parliament for Hornchurch & Upminster