

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Andrew Rosindell MP**

Member of Parliament for Romford  
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**Date:** 22 December 2022

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituents regarding the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). I am responding to you on behalf of the Mayor.

As you will know, on 25 November, the Mayor announced that he has decided to expand the ULEZ London-wide in August 2023, to tackle the triple threats of air pollution, the climate emergency and congestion, and ensure five million more Londoners can breathe cleaner air.

The Mayor has been clear that this was not an easy decision but a necessary one, as air pollution can lead to stunted lungs in children and a higher risk of dementia in older people. Additionally, more than 500,000 Londoners live with asthma and are more vulnerable to the health impacts of air pollution, with more than half of these people living in outer London boroughs.

The existing ULEZ has had a transformational impact, helping to reduce harmful roadside nitrogen dioxide by 44 per cent in central London and 20 per cent in inner London. However, despite this world-leading progress, many areas of London, including in outer London boroughs, still exceed legal and safe levels of air pollution. There is therefore a clear, pressing, legal and moral obligation to take action.

I am pleased that the Romford constituency has recently benefitted from the opening of the Elizabeth Line, a groundbreaking project to support Londoners with increased public transport connectivity. I hope that your constituents have already been able to benefit from the new line. The Elizabeth Line stops at Romford and Gidea Park stations, both based within the Romford constituency, and the two routes pass through these stations, either terminating at London Liverpool Street or Paddington station. These routes will also be able to support your constituents wishing to travel outside of Greater London and into Essex, with the route terminating in Shenfield. More information on this line is available here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/elizabeth-line/route/elizabeth>. Additionally, there is a statutory obligation that any net revenue raised by the ULEZ is reinvested into TfL's public transport services.

With regards to the current cost-of-living crisis, the Mayor is doing all he can to support Londoners financially, which is why the expansion will be accompanied by a brand new £110m scrappage scheme for Londoners on lower incomes, disabled Londoners, charities, micro-

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businesses and sole traders. More information on the scrappage scheme can be found here, and I would encourage you to share this with your constituents so they are aware of the scheme and whether they might be eligible: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/scrappage-schemes> . The Mayor continues to lobby Government to establish a national scrappage scheme and to support Londoners in the same way they have provided support to other cities implementing Clean Air Zones. I would welcome your support in making the case to Government.

In addition to the scrappage scheme, new measures have also been announced to support disabled people, including extending the existing exemption periods for London's disabled drivers and community transport minibuses run by not-for-profit organisations to October 2027 and October 2025 respectively, and introducing new exemption periods for people on a wider range of disability benefits and wheelchair accessible vehicles.

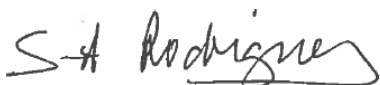
Only people with vehicles that do not meet the ULEZ standards will need to pay the daily charge to drive in the zone. Already, around 85 per cent of vehicles seen driving in outer London meet the standards, meaning their drivers will not have to pay. Please direct your constituents to the Transport for London (TfL) website to see if their vehicle will be exempt from the ULEZ: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/>.

With regards to the consultation, as you and your constituent are aware, an integrated impact assessment (IIA) of the London-wide ULEZ proposals and extensive stakeholder and public engagement were conducted. This consultation ran for more than two months and received nearly 58,000 responses. Following the consultation period the Mayor made the difficult, yet necessary decision, to go ahead with the scheme proposal but with some modifications based on the feedback and themes raised in the consultation.

While this was a difficult decision, the Mayor has made clear that the expansion of the ULEZ London-wide is vital to protect the health of all Londoners. In the borough of Havering, an independent consultant found that in 2019, there were between 149 and 178 early deaths in 2019 attributed to air pollution (see: [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/havering\\_air\\_quality\\_for\\_public\\_health\\_professionals.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/havering_air_quality_for_public_health_professionals.pdf), Appendix 8). I therefore hope you are able to support the expansion of the ULEZ, to protect the health of your constituents in Romford.

I hope that this letter answers your queries, and thank you again for writing to the Mayor.

Yours sincerely,



**Shirley Rodrigues**

Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy