



Congestion Charging Scheme

Business Impact

Information on the London congestion charging scheme

Background

The Mayor of London as part of his transport strategy has introduced a congestion charging scheme to deter unnecessary car journeys within central London. The congestion charging scheme was first introduced in February 2003.

Scheme Order

Time – The scheme is in operation Monday to Friday between the hours of 7:00am and 6:00pm excluding public holidays and the days between Christmas and New Year.

What are the boundaries of the zone – The zone stretches from the city in the East to West Kensington and from Paddington to Vauxhall. There is a free route through the middle of the zone from Paddington to Vauxhall and the westway is also a free route. For a full map please follow the link below:
<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/cc-ex/maps.shtml>

Is there tollbooths or permits? – You are paying to register your vehicle registration number on a database for daily travel **into, within or parked on the public highway within** the charging zone. The only exception to this is residents parked within a resident's parking bay in their own local parking zone. Cameras and mobile units read your number plate as you **enter** or **drive** within the charging zone and match it with the database. Once the number plate is matched, showing that you have paid the charge the details of your vehicle are automatically wiped off the computer at the end of the day.

Cost – To register on the database will cost £8 per day for each vehicle moving into or

within the zone. The charge can be pre-paid 90 days in advance of the relevant charging day. The vehicle can be registered for a charging period as detailed in the table below, please note there is a discount available for registrations over 20 days. The charge **does not** attract VAT.

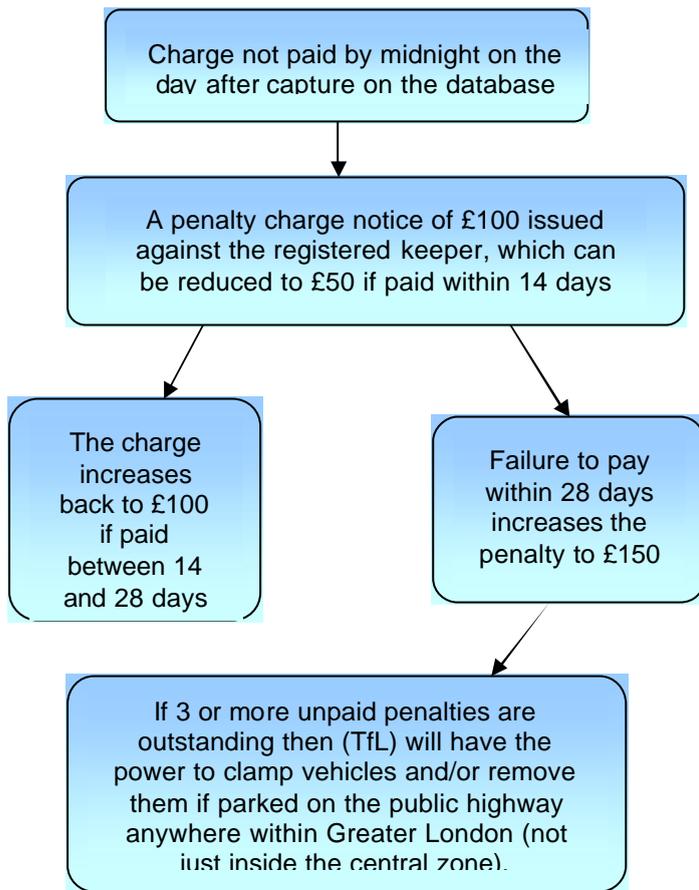
Period & Circumstances	Amount
Period of 5 Consecutive Charging Days	£40
Period of 20 Consecutive Charging Days	£136
Period of 252 Consecutive Charging Days	£1696

How to pay – The charge can be paid by cash, cheque or card at a number of different retail outlets including post offices, petrol stations and self service pay points. Alternatively there is an Internet service (www.cclondon.com), telephone service (0845 900 1234) or text message service available.

Late Payment – The charge is £8 if you pay by midnight on the day of travel or £10 if you pay by midnight the following charging day (you can pay the following charging day via the call centre and website only), after which time a penalty charge notice will be issued.

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Penalty Charge Notices



Transfer of Liability

BVRLA has secured legislation which ensures that “where the registered keeper is a vehicle hire company, and the vehicle was hired to a customer at the time of the offence” the company can make a representation to defer liability for the penalty charge notice to the hirer of that vehicle as long as the agreement is **less than six months** in duration.

Members will need to provide copy documentation to prove the vehicle was on hire when the offence was committed, for example, a rental agreement with a signed statement of liability.

Further information on how to transfer liability is available from the Helpful Procedures section in Members only on the BVRLA website.

TfL advises that for agreements longer than six months in duration the current recommendation is to pay the fine within 14 days at the discounted rate of £50 and then re-charge the customer. The BVRLA has worked closely with Department for Transport

and TfL to secure a change in the legislation to ensure contract hire Members whose agreements are longer than six months are able to transfer liability. No date is currently available for when this will be effective.

Clamping & Removal

If individuals persistently evade the scheme and have 3 or more outstanding or unchallenged penalties the number plate will be transferred to the Persistent Evaders database. TfL will then have the power to clamp vehicles and/or remove them if parked on the public highway anywhere within Greater London (not just inside the central zone). TfL may recover the following charges from the registered keeper:

- All penalty charges that are outstanding in relation to the vehicle
- A penalty charge of £150 for its removal
- A penalty charge of £25 for each complete day or part of a day on which it has been held by TfL
- If the vehicle has been disposed of, a penalty charge of £60 for its disposal

If the vehicle is ultimately disposed of an HPI or Experian check will be conducted first to ensure there is no outstanding finance.

BVRLA has also secured an agreement for Members whereby the vehicle has incurred 3 or more outstanding penalties **and** was hired to a customer at the time of the offences. Provided the Member has transferred liability on all 3 penalties to the hirer the vehicle will not be clamped or removed. The Member's vehicle will not be added to the Persistent Evaders database. However, if the Member themselves has three or more outstanding penalties that cannot be transferred to the hirer the vehicle could still be clamped or removed at any time in the Greater London area.

Exemptions

The following are exempt from the scheme and TfL do not required any notification:

- Motorbikes, (and sidecars) mopeds and bicycles
- London licensed Black cabs
- London licensed mini-cabs
- Emergency services' vehicles
- NHS vehicles that are exempt from vehicle excise duty

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- Vehicles used by disabled persons that are exempt from vehicle excise duty, Disabled passenger carrying vehicles (e.g. Dial-A-Ride) exempt from vehicle excise duty
- Public Service Vehicles with 9 or more seats licensed as a bus.

Discounts

The following receive a 100% discount from the scheme but have to register vehicles with TfL, some of these registrations attract a charge of £10 per vehicle per annum:

- Disabled persons or institutions in receipt of a blue or orange badge
- Accredited breakdown vehicles
- Vehicles with nine or more seats
- Electrically propelled vehicles
- Alternative fuel or Bi-Fuel vehicles (a vehicle not exclusively propelled by petrol or diesel) must attain 40% reduction above Euro IV emission standard and be listed in certain funding groups in the Transport Action (Powershift) Register maintained by the Energy Saving Trust – <http://www.powershift.org.uk/>.

Additionally all alternatively fuelled vehicles that have a maximum gross weight of 3500Kg and meet TransportEnergy PowerShift Register band 2 and 3 emissions standards would be eligible for the 100% discount.

Application for these discounts can be made through the TfL web site at www.cclondon.com.

Residents Discount Scheme

Residents in the charging zone will be eligible to register a private vehicle for a 90% discount from the charge whether they currently own a vehicle or not. The discount is subject to verification of residency status. An annual £10 charge would also be required to cover administration. If a resident has a courtesy or rental vehicle, they will be able to substitute the vehicle for their normal vehicle by contacting TfL. This service will attract a £10 administration fee.

Collection & Delivery

Collection and delivery charges are charged in accordance with the Member's published tariff

or at a rate agreed individually with the customer.

If Members are delivering vehicles within the zone during the charging period for a rental which is required to commence at a specified time in the morning e.g. 9am. Members will have to decide whether they would hold the renter responsible for the additional cost of having to purchase a permit if the vehicle has to be delivered in the charged zone on a charging day.

Fleet Operators

To reduce the level of administration and increase flexibility for fleet operators a fleet scheme is available if a fleet is larger than 10 vehicles, this includes cars, LCVs and HGVs. It can also include vehicles registered for most discounts, excluding residents vehicle discount and blue badge discount.

To cover administration costs, you will be charged £10 per vehicle per year for registration onto the Fleet Scheme. This will be drawn by direct debit when the first pre-payment is taken and thereafter on an annual basis for each registered vehicle.

Once registration is complete, you will be given access to your Fleet Account and monthly invoices via a dedicated Fleet extranet, where you will be able to amend your Fleet Account details as required, with security ensured through a customer number and your chosen PIN.

Under this scheme, the number plates of the fleet vehicles you have registered are captured by the network of cameras and the appropriate charges calculated automatically.

A pre-payment for the forthcoming month is drawn by direct debit from your fleet account. This amount will take into account any differences between the predicted and actual charges for the previous month and your anticipated charges for the next month.

Under this scheme you pay £7.00 per day per vehicle in the congestion charging zone during charging hours.

You are able to add vehicles to your scheme on an ad-hoc basis, for example rental vehicles, at no charge for a maximum of three

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weeks. The number of ad-hoc vehicles you are allowed in a month is limited to the number of vehicles that are on your account. These vehicles will be charged at the normal £8 rate.

Members may wish to promote the fleet scheme to their customers as it is the only way to ensure no penalty charge notices are received.

Further Information

For further information on the fleet scheme and other details of the congestion charging scheme visit the TfL web site at www.cclondon.com or call TfL on 0845 900 1234.

Alternatively, contact the legal services department on 01494 4347.