



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release
14 February 2007

London Congestion Getting Worse and Air Pollution No Better

A recent press release from Ken Livingstone makes it clear that in 2006 congestion within the London Congestion Tax zone actually got worse. The Association of British Drivers (ABD) suggests that it is likely to be no better in the current year than it was before the charge was introduced. All the extra residents covered by the new western extension will have free access and increase traffic within the zone.

The Mayor claims the rise in congestion is due to more road works, but in reality it is more likely the result of the policies of Transport for London in closing and narrowing roads, introducing more traffic lights, extending traffic light timings, and other measures which have clogged up our streets.

Mr Livingstone also claims that the Congestion Tax has "*delivered real improvements to air quality*" which is simply not true based on measurements of air pollution within the zone – the ABD can supply the evidence on this if you need it.

The Mayor also suggests that "*without congestion charging, central London would almost certainly have ground to a halt by now*" but there is no evidence for this at all. Such scaremongering is also being used by national Government but the facts simply do not bear this out. Road transport demand in London has exceeded the road capacity for more than 100 years, but congestion is self regulating.

No the Congestion Charge system is not a success and no amount of puffery will make it so. Perhaps that is why so many people have signed the on-line petition set up by ABD member Peter Roberts against national road tolls – currently the figure stands at over 1.4 million signatures (see <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/traveltax/> - the deadline to sign if you have not done so already is the 20th February).

For further information, please contact:

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About The Association of British Drivers (ABD)

The ABD is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against tolls and road usage charging. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. The Association is a "not for profit" voluntary organisation which is financially supported primarily by its individual members. More information on the ABD is available from our ABD London web site at www.freedomfordrivers.org

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