



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

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ABD Deplores Cessation of the Blackwall Tunnel Tidal Flow

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) says it is absolutely outrageous that the tidal flow system in the Blackwall Tunnel has been halted without any notice and without any public consultation. It also seems to have been done on the flimsiest of evidence concerning the risks of traffic accidents.

The video clips which have been released of the alleged incidents do not show actual accidents, but only near misses, and the drivers concerned seem to have realized their mistakes quite quickly. In addition of course they were clearly breaking the law by crossing a double white line which the police could easily enforce to discourage future such incidents. But it appears that the drivers concerned simply made an accidental error and suitable warning signs could easily warn drivers of the hazard, particularly if such signs were only displayed while the contraflow system was in operation.

Ceasing the tidal flow system will clearly increase congestion at the north bound entrance, as it did the last time the system was suspended (only a few years ago during a fireman's strike). With that road already heavily congested, while it is one of the main arteries from south-east London and Kent into east London and the City, it is appalling that this action has been taken without proper thought and consultation.

And it looks like it could simply be an attempt to justify the proposed congestion toll on the area south of the river which is under consideration.

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 Londonweb site at www.freedomfordrivers.org

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