



# The Association of British Drivers

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## Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release  
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### **ABD Welcomes Porsche Challenge to "Vastly Disproportionate" London Emissions Tax**

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) welcomes the challenge by Porsche to the vastly disproportionate tax proposed for London's drivers where they will have to pay 3,500 times over for their carbon emissions. Porsche GB have announced it will seek a judicial review of Ken Livingstone's £25 "Congestion" charge on the grounds that it is unfair, disproportionate and will not cut either congestion or emissions.

The ABD is delighted that a motor manufacturer has at last found the guts to stand up for itself against bully boy tactics from the green lobby - but neither Porsche nor Ken Livingstone seem to be aware of just how unfair and disproportionate the new tax is. Our calculation shows that band G residents will be paying £161,000 per tonne for their extra emissions in central London.

The London mayor's advisor on climate change, Mark Watts, has no clue at all - he said on BBC Radio 4 this morning: "*It's the polluter pays principle - you will be allowed to carry on driving a big polluting car in central London, but what the new charge will mean is you have to pay for the cost of the pollution that you inflict upon everyone else.*"

The Stern report, commissioned by the Government, suggested that £44 per tonne is an appropriate level of taxation for CO2 emissions.

Motorists already pay for their carbon at FIVE TIMES the level of the Stern recommendations - in fuel duty.

Ken Livingstone is going to charge those who live within the zone ANOTHER THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED TIMES the amount of tax that experts suggest is reasonable if they choose to own a car that creeps over the thresholds for emissions.

Have we found the most unfair, unreasonable and disproportionate tax ever proposed in Britain?

The ABD thinks so - and insult is added to injury when you realize that buyers of some brand new £40,000+ 4x4s won't have to pay the £25 whilst some VW Beetle owners will.

It is enough to drive us all to take a taxi. Until you realise that London Taxis tend to be automatics, which all emit well over 225g/km - and they don't have to pay the charge at all!

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The proposed charge for vehicles with higher emissions is £25, with no discounts for residents, for driving within the central zone with "Band G" emissions (over 225 g/km).

The new BMW X5 3.0D will emit 213 g/km (Autocar report), whereas a 2003 VW Beetle Auto produces 228g/km (SMMT website) - 15 g/km more.

Based on 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year, the brand new BMW X5 owning resident will pay £208 per year to drive in London. The owner of a £4000 secondhand VW Beetle Auto will have to pay £6500 - over THIRTY times as much.

If they both do 10km a day inside the zone, the VW Beetle owner will have to pay £161,333 for every extra tonne of CO2 he emits over and above the X5 driver.  $228-213=15\text{g/km} = 150\text{g for } 10\text{km} = .00015 \text{ tonnes. } £24.20/.00015 \text{ equals } £161.333.$

2. The Stern report suggested that £44 per tonne was the justifiable level of taxation to cover the alleged "damage" from carbon dioxide. The VW Beetle owner is therefore paying 3666 times this amount for his extra emissions over and above a BMW X5.

3. The ABD would like to point out that newer versions of the VW Beetle all emit under 225 g/km

4. London Taxi emissions (LTI TXII Auto taxi) - emission rated at 243 g/km on [www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk](http://www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk)

5. The Mayor's Press Release announcing the Emissions Related Congestion Charge is at:

[http://www.london.gov.uk/view\\_press\\_release.jsp?releaseid=15632](http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=15632)

The TfL Consultation Report and its various Annexes can be accessed from this web page: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging/6722.aspx#4>

The submission to the public consultation by the ABD can be accessed from this web page: <http://www.freedomfordrivers.org/Consultations.htm>

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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 web site at [www.abd.org.uk](http://www.abd.org.uk)