



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

3 September 2012

TfL Pushes Ahead with More Average Speed Cameras

Transport for London (TfL) is going out to tender for the installation and operation of more average speed cameras on London's road network. They plan to spend up to £15m on such devices on eight roads but TfL are unwilling to disclose to the public which roads are involved.

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) objects very strongly to the installation of more speed cameras in London, particularly average speed ones. Spot cameras at least allegedly might tackle accident black spots but average ones are very expensive and are simply not cost effective devices to improve road safety. There are already 780 speed cameras in use in London, but the evidence for their effectiveness is very weak. Average speed cameras are already in use on some roads in London (Lower Thames Street for example, but we have seen no evidence that they have had any beneficial impact there, in fact only the contrary).

ABD spokesperson Roger Lawson had this to say: *"It is disconcerting that these plans have been introduced without proper public scrutiny and soon after the Mayoral elections when this might have been an issue for public debate if it had been disclosed as part of the proposed future agenda for any of the candidates. It is disappointing that the 'war on the motorist' still seems to be alive and well in the heart of TfL. More fines will no doubt be imposed on motorists as a result when they may have been driving at a safe speed for the road conditions".*

The ABD also objects to the secrecy attached to these plans. If TfL think they are a good idea, why should they hide information and proper justification for them from the public?

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More Information

The ABD has asked for more information on the roads that are involved in this scheme, but this has been refused so we have submitted a Freedom of Information request.

We have also asked for details of when these plans (and the associated budgets) were approved, but answers to those questions have also been evaded. There was approval given for expenditure on new speed cameras (to replace obsolescent ones with digital cameras which will no doubt lead to even more speeding fines for motorists), but no apparent new schemes so far as we are aware.

An analysis by the ABD of the claims for the effectiveness of speed cameras in general is contained in this document:

www.freedomfordrivers.org/Effectiveness%20of%20Speed%20Cameras%20Review.pdf

Contact

For more information contact Roger Lawson on 020-8295-0378.

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.freedomfordrivers.org

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