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14 August 2023

Dear Adriena

Memorandum of Understanding – ULEZ & LEZ fleet compliance

I am writing to set out a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Transport for London (“TfL”) and South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

This MoU concerns the transition to a vehicle fleet that complies with or exceeds London’s Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and Low Emission Zone (LEZ) vehicle emission standards and how TfL will arrange for non-compliant vehicles to be treated under both schemes. In advance of the expansion of the ULEZ London-wide from 29th August 2023, and the continued operation of the LEZ it sets out an understanding of how your organisation’s fleet of vehicles:

- Will achieve compliance with London-wide ULEZ vehicle emissions standards (where applicable) for light vehicles within its fleet, and the timescales for doing so;
- Will achieve compliance with the LEZ vehicle emissions standards (where applicable) for heavy vehicles within its fleet, and the timescales for doing so; and,
- Will transition to a zero emission fleet to reduce your contribution to air pollution and carbon emissions from road vehicle operations, to help fulfil the Mayor’s target of net zero carbon by 2030, as well as the air quality guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization to protect public health.

An MoU is already in place for previous iterations of the ULEZ/LEZ, which is due to expire on 25th October 2023. This letter (MoU) will therefore replace any existing agreements, with effect from 29th August 2023.

As your organisation is based outside of London, vehicles within your fleet which are used for emergency services, and will occasionally be driven into London for operational purposes have been granted a temporary exemption. These vehicles are all emergency service vehicles, specialist and adapted, and therefore difficult to replace.

In line with national guidance on Clean Air Zones, the Mayor supports some flexibility and recognises that, unlike for most fleets, it is difficult to replace emergency vehicles in order to achieve compliance with the relevant emission standards, as they are specialist and adapted vehicles. This MoU reflects this position, highlighting the non-compliant vehicles within your fleet that meet these criteria.

Zero-emission vehicles

In line with the existing commitments set out in the 2018 Mayor's Transport Strategy, South Central Ambulance Service should work where possible towards delivering a fully zero emission capable fleet by 2030, to support the Mayor's ambition for a net zero carbon city by 2030.

In addition to the requirement to be fully ULEZ/LEZ compliant, emergency services and other public organisations that maintain vehicle fleets must lead by example in tackling environmental challenges and procuring responsibly – delivering, driving and enabling best practice. They can be powerful demonstrators of best practice or new technologies and use their scale to help to drive down costs to enable others to follow suit. In particular, they have a leading role to play in the demonstration and roll out of zero emission vehicles to help fulfil the Mayor's ambition for London to be a net zero carbon city by 2030, as well as the air quality guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization to protect public health.

We are pleased that your organisation has already shown leadership in this area. Wherever possible, we encourage you to shift to zero emission vehicles and to continue the positive progress you have made in this area.

Progress reporting

In order to monitor your progress switching to cleaner and where possible, zero emission vehicles, TfL and the GLA will require you to provide a quarterly update on progress, until this MoU expires.

Temporary exemption from ULEZ/LEZ Standards and Charges for some vehicles

TfL has agreed that the vehicles described in the table below are eligible for a time-limited exemption (often called a “*sunset*” clause) from the applicable ULEZ and LEZ emission standards and non-compliance charges, including the issue or payment of any subsequent Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) against such vehicles.

Once the exemption expiry date(s) in the table have been reached for each vehicle category, it is expected that your organisation will have achieved full ULEZ/LEZ compliance. From that expiry date those vehicles will be subject to applicable ULEZ/LEZ standards and non-compliance charges (including the payment of PCNs). TfL will confirm in writing prior to charges being applied. This approach is supported by the Mayor.

You will be responsible for uploading details of the vehicles which are subject to a temporary exemption, as outlined above, through your TfL account. All vehicles uploaded must be kept up to date, and any vehicles decommissioned or replaced, must then be removed from the system. Subject to providing TfL with the relevant and up to date vehicle details, vehicles eligible for a temporary exemption will not have to pay the LEZ or ULEZ charge until the exemption expires, and TfL can void and cancel any Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) issued by TfL for the LEZ or ULEZ. You are also responsible for ensuring that access to your TfL account is limited to authorised users. This will jointly be monitored by the GLA air quality team and the TfL transport strategy and policy team.

In total, **158 vehicles qualify for a temporary exemption**. This number is capped and TfL and GLA do not expect it to increase without prior consultation at the quarterly meetings mentioned above. A breakdown of these vehicles can be found below.

Table: South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust vehicles temporarily exempt from ULEZ/LEZ standards and charges

Vehicle type	Quantity	Exemption expiry date	Reason
Ambulances	42	26 th October 2025	Ambulances used for emergency service operations. Driven into London occasionally.
Rapid Response Vehicles and Response Cars	93	26 th October 2025	Vehicles used for emergency service operations. Driven into London occasionally.
Patient Transport Service vehicles	23	26 th October 2025	All vehicles essential to adapted to carry disabled patients, and used to transport patients into London hospitals.

Whilst the MoU is not a legally binding document, in signing we expect you to work to the dates and provisions. Please confirm your agreement by signing, dating and returning a copy, as attached.

Yours sincerely



Christina Calderato
Director of Transport Strategy and Policy
Transport for London

AGREEMENT

On behalf of South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, I agree to the contents of this Memorandum of Understanding as set out in the above letter.

Signed:



Position: Assistant Director of Operations- Support Services

Organisation: South Central Ambulance Service

Dated: 10/07/2023

For and on behalf of South Central Ambulance Service