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Dear

Thank you for your letter of 6 April to the Prime Minister, about the proposed expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone. Your letter has been passed to this Department and I am replying as the Minister for Roads and Local Transport.

Cllo Maryon, Andrew & Keth

As you are aware, under the GLA Act, transport in London is devolved to the Mayor and TfL, and it is their responsibility to manage and oversee the transport network. This includes decisions with regards to road schemes which charge users. It was the Mayor's decision to expand the ULEZ. However, we have been clear that government grant funding cannot be used to cover the cost of implementing the proposal.

The power to introduce or vary a road scheme that charges users is given to TfL under section 295 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLA Act). Schedule 23 of the GLA Act provides further detail on this. These powers have been used previously by the Mayor to introduce the Congestion Charge, Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and current ULEZ. There is no legal requirement for the Mayor to consult government on the decision to expand the ULEZ.

The Mayor of London launched a vehicle scrappage scheme on 30 January 2023 to help eligible Londoners prepare for expansion. Sole traders, microbusinesses and charities are eligible to scrap a van or a minibus or retrofit certain vans and minibuses.

With regards to whether the Government has any legal powers to stop the expansion, Section 143 of the GLA Act is focused on correcting inconsistencies between national transport policy and the Mayor's Transport Strategy. It is not intended to be used to block a specific measure, for example ULEZ expansion, from being introduced.

Best wishes,

RICHARD HOLDEN MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT