



**Department
for Transport**

Dr Onkar Sahota AM
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Richard Holden MP

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Our Ref: MC/437044

Dear *Dr Sahota*

17 October 2023

Thank you for your letter of 13 September to the Secretary of State, about the ULEZ expansion and seeking government support for a national clean air fund to cover scrappage schemes across England. I am replying as the Minister for Roads and Local Transport.

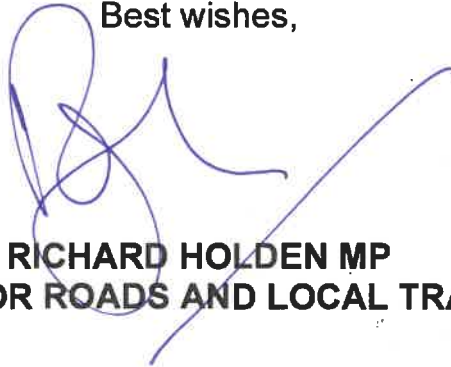
As you are aware, transport in London is devolved to the Mayor of London and TfL. This includes decisions with regards to road schemes which charge users. It was the Mayor's decision to expand the ULEZ to the Greater London boundary. Therefore, it is for the Mayor to consider the need and budget for any impact this decision has on residents, drivers and businesses including those outside of London.

With regards to a 'national clean air fund', the Government has worked closely with 64 English local authorities and has placed legal duties on them – underpinned by £883 million in funding – to tackle their nitrogen dioxide exceedances. Most of these authorities have concluded this work, but the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit continues to work with a number of authorities to develop and implement measures to deliver compliance, and to monitor the impact of measures once implemented. Government has awarded £402m (as of April 2023) of support from the Clean Air Fund to Local Authorities to improve air quality in areas of NO₂ exceedances. The Clean Air Fund is used by Local Authorities in the NO₂ Programme to mitigate the impacts of air quality measures such as grants to individuals and businesses for vehicle upgrades.

Regarding London, the Government has already provided London with over £102mn since 2011 to fund projects to tackle air pollution, and this does not include the over £6bn in funding that this government has provided TfL since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

It is not for government to continually provide financial support to fund the Mayor's clean air initiatives especially if he is able to identify funding himself for it, which has proven to do so for other initiatives over the past year.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of connected strokes that end in a long, sweeping underline.

RICHARD HOLDEN MP
MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT