

TfL Congestion Charge Consultation

4 February 2013

Ultra-Low Emissions Discount

The London Assembly Health and Environment Committee has taken evidence on air pollution in London and the effects of traffic emissions on it. It therefore wishes to respond to the current consultation on the Congestion Charge, and specifically to the question on the Ultra-Low Emissions Discount.

This response is supported by the majority of the Committee.¹

The Committee welcomes the proposal to replace the Greener Vehicle Discount with a new discount based on updated criteria. The tightening of the CO₂ emissions limit has its own benefits, and may bring with it a reduction in emissions of NO_x and particulates. However, the application of the Euro 5 standard for air quality does not seem likely to add much value.

The Euro 5 standard has been in effect for more than three years, and the Committee has heard, including from the Mayor's own environment adviser, that it is failing to get emissions down, particularly from diesel vehicles. Euro 5 allows NO_x emissions from diesel cars of 180mg/km, more than the 150mg/km required of petrol cars at the Euro 3 standard, which was superseded eight years ago. It allows diesel vans to emit much more again (280mg/km).

The Euro 6 standard is expected to reduce these emissions more effectively, and some petrol and diesel vehicles currently on the market meet its requirements. Therefore the Committee supports the principle put forward in your current consultation document, that car models qualifying for the congestion charge discount should have the lowest emissions on the market – this would be better represented by a Euro 6 qualifying standard than by the proposed Euro 5.

If there are any queries regarding this response, please address correspondence in the first instance to the Committee's scrutiny manager ian.williamson@london.gov.uk.

¹ With the exception of the Conservative Members.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murad Qureshi', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom right of the signature.

Murad Qureshi AM

Chair of the Health and Environment Committee