

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

██████████
By email)

Our Ref: MGLA130521-3069

7 June 2021

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 13 May 2021. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for;

How much do these cameras cost us to erect, to maintain, and to operate?

Our response to your request is as follows:

The cameras you have seen are being installed to support the launch of the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) up to, but not including, the North and South Circular Roads this October. The aim of the ULEZ and its expansion is to reduce emissions from road transport that are the most harmful to human health.

Air pollution is often more concentrated close to the source of emissions, such as traffic. This means that exposure and its health impacts are not distributed evenly across London. Long standing structural inequalities in our society mean that if you are less well off or from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background you are more likely to live in the places with the worst air pollution despite being less likely to own a car. Our research shows that people living in the 10 per cent of most deprived areas are exposed to concentrations of harmful nitrogen dioxide which are 25 per cent higher than the least deprived 10 per cent.

The ULEZ expansion will deliver the most benefit in these areas that currently have the worst pollution and will help reduce the exposure gap between the most and least deprived areas by 71 per cent. The difference in exposure between areas with the highest and lowest proportion of BAME residents will decrease by up to 85 per cent. While this won't solve structural inequalities, protecting the health of the poorest and most marginalised is an important step towards a fairer society. You can read more about the findings of this research here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/environment-publications/air-pollution-london-impact-environment-strategy>

The Mayor is keen to provide as much support as possible for those who may find it difficult to meet the ULEZ standards with their own vehicles and has created a number of scrappage schemes, totalling over £52m, to support small businesses, charities and low income and disabled Londoners to prepare for the expansion of the scheme. The Car and Motorcycle Scrappage scheme provides grants of up to £2,000 to help low income and disabled Londoners switch to cleaner vehicles and greener forms of transport. This scheme is open to people who live within the 32 London boroughs or the City of London and receive certain means-tested benefits or non means-tested disability benefits. More information can be found here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/car-and-motorcycle-scrappage-scheme>

The expanded ULEZ will be enforced in the same way as the Congestion Charge and the central London ULEZ, and cameras play an essential role in making the ULEZ effective. Cameras installed on the boundary roads and within the zone will capture vehicle number plates as they are driven in the zone to check against the Transport for London (TfL) database to see if they meet the ULEZ standards. This requires the installation of approximately 750 new cameras and the refurbishment of 288 existing cameras. Once TfL has verified that no charge is applicable or the appropriate charge has been paid or a discount or exemption applies, the images are deleted.

The supply and installation costs for individual cameras vary because the complexity of the works to enable their installation depends on whether existing power supplies and street furniture can be used or whether new provision is required. The majority of camera supply and installation costs are in the range of £10,000 – £15,000 though occasionally where locations are constrained the individual site cost can be higher.

The Mayor and TfL have sought to deliver the infrastructure needed to operate the scheme in the most cost-effective way possible. Additionally, all money received from the ULEZ will be reinvested into improving the transport network – including its roads, cycleways, buses and tube – and making London's air cleaner.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely


Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>