

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA031121-6859

23 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, and apologies if you have found the previous response incomprehensible.

The data and evidence used by Transport for London (TfL) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to inform policy decisions must always be gathered and processed in accordance with the principles and regulations governing the use of personal data. This means that we do not always hold the data in a format that matches the questions we are asked. I would also note that, whilst TfL is part of the GLA family, we are separate organisations and personal information held by TfL is not routinely shared with the GLA.

I have set out below what information TfL has or has access too, including data published by other organisations, in relation to your questions. In most cases the information is already publicly available on the internet, and where this is the case, I have included relevant links. I hope that you will find this helpful.

1. How many Blue Badge holders are on TfL records?

The Blue Badge scheme is run by the Department for Transport and is administered by local authorities (in London by the boroughs and the City of London) who deal with the applications and assessments as well as the issuing of the badges. TfL therefore does not keep records of all Blue Badge holders in London.

However, Blue Badge holders can register with TfL for a 100% discount from the Congestion Charge. While this information is not routinely shared with the GLA, the numbers of beneficiaries of this discount are published by TfL in its quarterly Congestion Charge factsheets, which can be found online here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/congestion-charge> (under the "Finance, Operations and Performance" menu item). The most recent figures show that there were 116,627 active beneficiaries of this discount.

During the consultation on expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) the independent Integrated Impact Assessment (<https://content.tfl.gov.uk/ulez-consultation-appendix-j-nov-2017.pdf>) used Department for Transport data to estimate that "In London, 2.8 percent of the

population are Blue Badge holders". Department for Transport data on Blue Badges is published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/blue-badge-scheme-statistics-data-tables-dis> .

2. How many Blue Badge holders have a registered vehicle with a disabled vehicle tax class and are exempt from ULEZ charges?

For UK registered vehicles, the time limited ULEZ exemption for vehicles with disabled or disabled passenger tax class is applied automatically. This means that TfL does not require beneficiaries of the disabled or disabled passenger tax class to register their vehicle. As described in TfL's ULEZ Data Protection Impact Assessment (<https://content.tfl.gov.uk/ulez-expansion-dpia-september-2020.pdf>) camera data relating to exempt vehicles is not retained, as there is no business need to retain that data.

This is the same process as is applied to beneficiaries of other exemptions, including those for historical vehicles, agricultural machinery and military vehicles.

That said, TfL does publish data on the ULEZ that includes average numbers of exempt vehicles seen within the zone each day. These reports can be found here <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/ultra-low-emission-zone#on-this-page-7> (under the "Finance, Operations and Performance" menu item). The most recent figures show that there were on average 4,212 exempt vehicles seen in the zone each day in June. Future reports will provide data on the now expanded zone. Please note that these figures include all exempt vehicles, not just those with a disabled or disabled passenger tax class.

During the consultation on expanding the ULEZ the independent Integrated Impact Assessment for the scheme estimated the numbers of vehicles likely to benefit from the time limited exemption for disabled and disabled passenger tax class vehicles. Based on data provided by the Department for Transport, it was estimated that there would be approximately 12,000 non-compliant disability tax-exempt private vehicles in Greater London.

3. How many Blue Badge holders have a vehicle that does not comply with ULEZ?

Neither TfL nor the GLA hold data on who owns or drives compliant or non-compliant vehicles. Under data protection legislation, TfL is only allowed to use personal information if it has a proper reason or 'legal basis' to do so. More details on the information held or processed by TfL with respect to Road User Charging schemes can be found on its website here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/privacy-and-cookies/road-user-charging>

Early indications show that 87 per cent of all vehicles travelling in the expanded ULEZ already meet the ULEZ standards so it is likely that the majority of Blue Badge holders have compliant vehicles and will not need to pay the charge.

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>