Our reference: MGLA060922-8744

29 September 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 5 September 2022. Your request has been considered under Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You requested:

1. *Why the decision of a fine of £160 / early repayment £80 this doesn't seem inline with other traffic offences.*

2. *Why the decision to only allow 3 days to pay £12.50 shouldn't you get sent a letter letting you pay the £12.50 first before a fine?*

3. *Where does the fine go? What environmental improvements is it spent on?*

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request.

Transport for London (TfL) is the Mayor's transport authority and is responsible for implementing the Mayor's Transport Strategy, and for the day-to-day operational running of transport services, including road user charging schemes such as the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). You may wish to send a further request to TfL at foi@tfl.gov.uk.

1. *Why the decision of a fine of £160 / early repayment £80 this doesn't seem inline with other traffic offences.*

   TfL sets the penalty charge level for road contraventions on London's network of red routes (the five per cent of London's roads that are managed by TfL), and for contraventions of London's road user charging schemes, including the Congestion Charge, ULEZ and Low Emission Zone (LEZ) for heavy vehicles. Penalty charges for road contraventions on other roads in London are set by the London boroughs, except for speeding fines which are set nationally.

   As set out on the TfL website, drivers may be issued a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) if they drive within the ULEZ without either meeting the emission standards or paying the daily £12.50 charge. The penalty charge has been £160, discounted to £80 if paid within 14 days, since the ULEZ was introduced in central London in April 2019. This is the same as the penalty charge for the Congestion Charge, which has been £160 since January 2018

when it increased from £130. The penalty charge level has been set to be an effective deterrent against ULEZ and Congestion Charge contraventions.

On 17 January 2022, the penalty charge for all red route contraventions increased from £130 to £160 to further deter contraventions of road rules and support TfL's aims to reduce road danger, improve public transport reliability and increase active travel. You can read more about this in TfL's press release: https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2022/january/tfl-set-to-increase-fines-for-contraventions-on-london-s-red-routes

2. *Why the decision to only allow 3 days to pay £12.50 shouldn't you get sent a letter letting you pay the £12.50 first before a fine?*

   The enforcement and payment methods for the ULEZ are the same as the Congestion Charge. To avoid penalty charges, drivers are able to register for Auto Pay. Drivers registered for Auto Pay are automatically charged for the number of days their registered vehicle is used during charging hours within the Congestion Charge zone and, if it doesn't meet the standards, the LEZ and ULEZ. Customers are then billed monthly.

   Auto Pay has been available since 2011 and TfL's marketing campaigns supporting the introduction and recent expansion of the ULEZ have encouraged drivers of non-compliant vehicles to sign up to Auto Pay to avoid PCNs.

3. *Where does the fine go? What environmental improvements is it spent on?*

   All revenue raised by road pricing must by law be used to implement the Mayor's Transport Strategy (https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mayors-transport-strategy-2018.pdf). Therefore, any net revenue received from the ULEZ is reinvested by TfL into improving the transport network – including its roads, cycleways, buses and the Tube – and making London's air cleaner.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA060922-8744.

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