

Mayor of London is sending mixed messages about net zero

Tom Middleditch, Sustainability spokesperson at Europcar:

“The news that the Mayor of London is removing the 100% exemption from Congestion Charge for battery electric vehicles from January 2nd 2026 is disappointing. It is yet another example of the mixed messages coming from the country’s leadership. On the one hand private motorists and businesses are being urged to make the switch to zero tailpipe emissions; on the other the incentives to make the switch are being rapidly removed although the market is still relatively immature. There seems to be a battle between clean air and revenue – and it feels like clean air is going to be the loser.

“Whilst the electric car parc is growing – the latest SMMT figures show fantastic growth in used EV sales – the reality is that electric van adoption is woefully behind. Businesses of all sizes need to be encouraged to transition to electric for their commercial vehicle fleets, but with the proposed reduction in EV discount for vans and lorries, organisations that are already juggling a multitude of additional operational costs are likely to see the removal of the exemptions as a real deterrent.

“Whilst the Mayor is suggesting the introduction of charges for EVs will help reduce congestion, the reality is that it’s more likely to simply leave more polluting vehicles on London’s roads which will do nothing for the clean air targets.

“Along with other industry commentators, we would urge Sir Sadiq Khan to reconsider the decision.”



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Contacts

Press Relations

Wendy Harrison/Cecile Stearn/Clare Watson:

europcarmobilitygroupUK_PR@harrisonsadler.com

020 8977 9132

Notes to Editors

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