



Peter Taylor - Liberal Democrat Elected Mayor of Watford

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Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

By email

Thursday 3rd August 2023

Dear Mr Harper,

Re: ULEZ expansion

I am writing to you following the recent court case regarding the expansion of ULEZ expected to go ahead at the end of this month. Residents in Watford, despite being out of the zone covered by the expansion, will be affected by this change as many residents commute and visit London from our town. That means many will soon have to pay the £12.50 daily charge.

Good air quality is an issue which I am sure we would both support. However, the expansion of ULEZ to outer London boroughs at the pace we have seen will cause serious issue for many residents, businesses and charities. This is particularly true for drivers on the lowest incomes who will neither be able to buy a new car in time or pay the daily charge when the zone is expanded. At a time when many businesses are having to cope with rising prices, higher interest rates and a difficult economic situation, these charges could impact on their viability.

I have lobbied the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to expand his scrappage scheme to those on the edge of London and have written to you previously on the matter. I know that the government has been reluctant to agree a scrappage scheme for Watford residents, but it is now clear that no scrappage scheme from TfL will be in place to cover Watford. Given the recent court ruling on ULEZ, the government must act now to support Watford residents, businesses and charities with a national scheme.

I noticed in the newspapers recently that the Prime Minister has said that he is on the side of the motorists. Unfortunately, without a national scrappage scheme to allow poorer and disabled residents to change their old and polluting vehicles to cleaner ones, their freedom to travel by motor vehicle will be curtailed.

I hope that you are able to respond quickly to my request and support vulnerable people in Watford to avoid paying significant amounts of money to drive their car to work, visit family, attend hospital appointments or do business in London.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Taylor
Elected Mayor of Watford