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NEARLY A QUARTER OF BUSINESSES HAVE NO PLANS IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH ULEZ CHANGES FROM 25TH OCTOBER

New Europcar Mobility Group UK research highlights lack of preparedness for London's extended Ultra Low Emission Zone and UK roll-out of Clean Air Zones

On the eve of the extension of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) on 25th October, new data suggests not all businesses are ready, or are even aware of all the rules. There also seems to be a lack of knowledge of the new Clean Air Zones (CAZ) coming into force across the country in the next few months.

Most (87%) fleet professionals surveyed by Europcar Mobility Group UK¹ are in no doubt that the ULEZ changes and new Clean Air Zones will have an impact on their business. Yet when asked specifically about the London ULEZ, 23% said they had no plan or strategy in place to deal with the changing rules.

With the current vehicle supply shortages, combined with post-COVID financial pressures that are likely to deter many businesses from upgrading their fleet, there's an urgent need to find alternatives to ensure non-compliance doesn't hit the bottom line. However, it's not only a lack of preparation and planning that could be an issue for businesses. The Europcar research also highlights some misunderstanding about the rules and the penalties.

"While the extended ULEZ and new Clean Air Zones are, of course, crucial to improve health and the city environment in general, they present new challenges for fleet managers, who need to ensure business mobility and continuity without unexpected costs", said Clive Forsythe, Commercial Director, Europcar Mobility Group UK. "But the lack of knowledge about the rules surrounding the extended ULEZ could have a big impact on day-to-day business operations and finances, with unexpected fines quickly mounting up.

For those businesses that operate in London's Ultra Low Emission Zone, over two thirds do not fully understand the size of the extended zone, what times the zone is in operation, the costs involved, and the type of vehicles the rules apply to. The ULEZ is enforced based on the declared emissions of the vehicle rather than the age. However, petrol cars that meet the ULEZ standards are generally those first registered with the DVLA after 2005 (Euro 4) and diesel cars that meet the standards are generally those first registered with the DVLA after September 2015 (Euro 6).

Less than a third (29%) of respondents could correctly identify how big the ULEZ extended area will be and just over a quarter (27%) could identify the additional London Boroughs it will encompass. More than 1 in 5 businesses thought it only operates Monday – Friday from 6am to 7pm, and 23% thought a daily charge of £5 applies to vehicles that do not meet the ULEZ emissions standards. None of these 'facts' are correct.

London ULEZ from October 25th: The Facts

- The London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year, except Christmas Day (25 December)
- From 25 October 2021 the ULEZ encompasses a single zone up to, but not including the North Circular Road (A406) and South Circular Road (A205).
- Most vehicles, including cars and vans, need to meet the ULEZ emissions standards or their drivers must pay a daily charge to drive within the zone:
 - £12.50 for most vehicle types, including cars, motorcycles and vans (up to and including 3.5 tonnes)
 - £100 for heavier vehicles, including lorries (over 3.5 tonnes) and buses/coaches (over 5 tonnes)

To find out more visit <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone>

“Our research showed, that only 30% of fleet professionals realised that the London ULEZ zone operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week”, continued Clive Forsythe. “With penalty chargesⁱⁱ of up to £160, it wouldn’t take long for fines to put a dent in business profitability. But the ongoing vehicle supply issue means that many businesses are now struggling to make sure they are ULEZ ready.”

There are, however, options that can keep businesses on the move. Ubeeqo, the Europcar Mobility Group car-sharing brand, provides easy access to ULEZ compliant vehicles on the streets of London. Electric, hybrid and petrol cars – all of which fully meet ULEZ requirements – can be booked via the Ubeeqo app or online, with RFID technology used to unlock and lock them.

For businesses with drivers going into the ULEZ regularly, Europcar long-term rental solutions provide a cost-effective and reliable way to fill the gaps for a compliant fleet. Indeed, the research shows that many businesses were already looking at ways to make their fleets more compliant, with 40% considering long-term rental as a way of ensuring that they have the flexibility to deal with variations in workload, as well as keeping zone entry charges and fines to a minimum.

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For accompanying image please [download here](#)

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About Europcar Mobility Group

Europcar Mobility Group is a major player in mobility markets and listed on Euronext Paris. Europcar Mobility Group’s purpose is to offer attractive alternatives to vehicle ownership, in a responsible and sustainable manner. With this in mind, the Group offers a wide range of car and van rental services – be it for a few hours, a few days, a week, a month or more – with a fleet that is already “CO2 light” and equipped with the latest engines, and which will be increasingly “green” in the years to come (more than 1/3 electric and hybrid vehicles by 2023).

Customers’ satisfaction is at the heart of the Group’s ambition and that of its employees. It also fuels the ongoing development of new offerings in the Group’s three service lines - Professional, Leisure and Proximity - which respond to the specific needs and use cases of both businesses and individuals. The Group’s 4 major brands are: Europcar® - the European leader of car rental and light

commercial vehicle rental, Goldcar® - the low-cost car-rental Leader in Europe, InterRent® – ‘mid-tier’ car rental and Ubeeqo® – one of the European leaders of round-trip car-sharing (BtoB, BtoC).

Europcar Mobility Group delivers its mobility solutions worldwide through an extensive network in over 140 countries (including wholly owned subsidiaries – 18 in Europe, 1 in the USA, 2 in Australia and New Zealand – completed by franchises and partners).

Further details on our website: www.europcar-mobility-group.com

ⁱ Research conducted by Censuswide, September 2021 -300 UK Fleet Professionals

ⁱⁱ <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/penalty-charges-for-ulez>