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EUROPCAR HELPS DRIVERS IN OLDER VEHICLES AVOID £9 A DAY CHARGE FOR ENTERING THE NEW BRISTOL CLEAN AIR ZONE

Compliant cars and vans, including electric models, available to rent from Europcar Bristol South

Drivers entering the new Bristol Clean Air Zone could face a daily charge of £9 if their vehicle is not compliant¹ with the new rules. But for some private motorists and businesses, changing their vehicle is not an option. However, the costs could quickly ramp up if they need to do more than the occasional trip into the city.

Helping drivers to navigate the new charges, Europcar is offering a range of hybrid and electric vehicles from its Bristol South rental station. And with four EV charging points at the branch, it's ready to ensure that electrified vehicles are always ready to go.

In a bid to reduce air pollution, the Bristol Clean Air Zone came into force on 28th November and operates 24/7. Euro 4, 5 and 6 petrol vehicles and Euro 6 diesel as well as fully electrified cars and vans are exempt from any charges. But drivers of older vehicles will need to pay the fixed charge of £9 per day or risk a penalty charge notice. It's a cost many businesses and individuals could ill afford.

Recognising the importance of sustainable mobility for private motorists and local businesses in the area, Europcar has made a significant investment in the region. It has upgraded its Bristol South location, which is in the Clean Air Zone, to be fully equipped with vehicles as well as adding charging points.

As Mark Newberry, Commercial Director at Europcar Mobility Group UK explained, it's a clear sign of the company's focus on delivering sustainable mobility solutions: "We recently surveyed company car drivers to find out how they feel about their employers' sustainability ambitions. Slightly worryingly we found that over a third (35%) would consider changing jobs if they felt their employer wasn't doing enough to be sustainable and tackle climate change.² The pressure is clearly on to tackle CO2 emissions and the introduction of the Clean Air Zones across the country is an important step.

¹ Charges do not apply to:

- Euro 4, 5 and 6 petrol vehicles, roughly 2006 upwards
- Euro 6 diesel vehicles, roughly end of 2015 onwards
- fully electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles
- modified or retrofitted vehicles registered with the Energy Saving Trust's Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS)
- motorbike

² Vyper research conducted July 2022 – 500 company car drivers

“Europcar is also committing significant investment to ensure we can support our customers with vehicles and charging infrastructure. And drivers travelling through Bristol will be able to access compliant cars and vans, which will offer peace of mind and ensure that they do not fall foul of any fees or penalty charges.”

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About Europcar Mobility Group

Europcar Mobility Group is a major player in mobility markets. Relying on its long-term purpose - to offer attractive alternatives to vehicle ownership, in a responsible and sustainable manner, its ambition is to become a leader in sustainable mobility driven by technology, data and people in the years to come.

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 equipped with the latest engines, and which will be increasingly "green" by the end of 2024 and onwards.

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 business 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 lowcost car rental Leader in Europe, InterRent® – ‘mid-tier’ car rental and Ubeeqo® – one of the European leaders of roundtrip 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