



Abolish the Congestion Charge

Chris Prior for the London Assembly

"Use your vote, have your say"

YOUR MONEY FOR NOTHING

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Immediate Release**

"If the congestion charge was a service marketed by a private company, it would have been shut down long ago," says Chris Prior, the Abolish the Congestion Charge candidate in the London wide Assembly elections.

"Almost certainly it would fall foul of trade descriptions legislation.

According to Transport for London, the primary justification for charging £8 to enter the zone is to cut congestion. This is the "service" for which drivers pay.

However, the reality is that drivers endure greater congestion within the zone than before the charge was introduced. Congestion has also increased outside the zone as a direct result of its operation. It is a charge for increasing congestion not cutting it!

It is not only motorists that suffer, average bus speeds are down 11% since 2003.

If set up costs are included, the congestion charge has generated virtually no new money for public transport – despite costing Londoners over £1bn since its introduction. It has had no measurable impact on air quality in the capital.

London needs policies that work – we must abolish those that don't. The more bad government is tolerated, the more of it we will get. Democracy matters; I urge all those who want better government to have their say and cast their vote to abolish this failed scheme."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. Information on congestion levels from Transport of London's "Congestion Charge – Impacts Monitoring – Fifth Annual Report: June 2007" pages 39 - 43.
2. For analysis of the finances of the congestion charge, "London Under Livingstone," Bow Group 2007, page 20.
3. Information on air quality from Transport of London's "Congestion Charge – Impacts Monitoring – Fifth Annual Report: June 2007" pages 56 and 67.

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