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## **Congestion Zone charge for PHVs ‘would cost industry £52million a year’**

- Warning from industry body LPCHA over proposals to remove CCZ exemptions
- Over 4.5million PHV journeys in congestion zone in 2017 – 18,000 per day
- If exemption was not in place, charges would have reached £52.3million
- Assembly Member Gareth Bacon wants Mayor to abandon proposals

Proposals to charge minicabs for entering the Congestion Charge Zone (CCZ) in central London would cost the industry £52million a year and increase costs for consumers, new figures show.

Transport for London is looking at removing the current exemption for private-hire vehicles (PHVs) in the CCZ.

In 2017, over 4.5million individual PHV journeys were made inside the CCZ – an average of 18,256 per day.

If the exemptions for the £11.50 daily charge were not in place, drivers would have paid a combined total of £52.3million.

Today, London Assembly member Gareth Bacon, backed by the Licensed Private Hire Car Association (LPCHA), called on the Mayor and TfL to abandon the proposals.

**London Assembly member Gareth Bacon said:** “Private hire vehicles are an essential form of public transport in London and the idea they would be charged for entering the congestion zone is madness.

“Not only would this be a huge financial burden on hard-working minicab firms in the city, they would be forced to pass some of the costs down to the end user – meaning Londoners would also lose out.

“There is no doubt TfL are motivated to introduce these charges to regain some much-needed income lost by the Mayor’s partial fares freeze.

“I am urging Sadiq Khan to immediately drop these proposals and reassure the capital’s PHV industry that they are not about to be hit with this crippling charge.”

**Steve Wright MBE, chairman of the Licensed Private Hire Car Association (LPHCA), said:**  
 “PHVs have to come into and through London whether they like it or not - it is not a matter of choice.

“TfL appears to be ignoring the fact we are the cheapest and greenest form of door-to-door public transport in London, reducing private car usage and congestion.

“These charges would impact on disabled, elderly and vulnerable passengers that rely on the affordable, door-to-door services we provide. It is a hair-brained proposal and we will be fighting hard to make sure it goes no further.”

ENDS.

**Notes**

- Gareth Bacon is the GLA Conservatives’ budget spokesman

**PHV journeys in the Congestion Charge Zone:**

<b>Private Hire Vehicles</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Daily Average PHVs Detected in CC Zone During Charging Hours</b>	<b>Monthly Total PHVs Detected in CC Zone During Charging Hours at Least Once (Unique)</b>
January 2017	17,541	55,935
February 2017	17,835	54,616
March 2017	18,471	56,723
April 2017	17,803	53,831
May 2017	18,839	56,718
June 2017	19,247	57,895
July 2017	18,383	57,075
August 2017	16,617	55,098
September 2017	18,546	56,936
October 2017	18,125	56,994
November 2017	18,634	57,257
December 2017	19,033	54,658
<b>2017 total</b>		<b>673,736</b>

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.**

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