The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release
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ABD Welcomes Scrapping of £25 Congestion Charge

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) welcomes the announcement by Boris Johnson that he is cancelling the proposed Emissions Related Congestion Charge due to come into force in October. This proposal included a charge of £25 for some vehicles and no charge for low emission vehicles.

The ABD opposed the proposal because it clearly was not going to have any environmental benefit – indeed its detractors estimated it would actually raise total emission levels.

Roger Lawson, ABD London Region Co-Ordinator, had this to say:

"*The £25 Congestion Charge was simply a way of raising more tax supported by eco-fascists and those left wingers who like to tax the apparently wealthy. It was backed by a biased consultation process, misleading opinion polls and ultimately a refusal by the former Mayor to listen to the views of his own electorate. We are glad that Mr Johnson has stuck to his election pledge and ditched this unreasonable attack on motorists. The ERCC was the most unfair and disproportionate tax ever proposed in Britain*".

The ABD supported the challenge by Porsche with a judicial review to this proposal. Porsche are now going to be paid their legal costs, which they are donating to charity. But the ABD is still pursuing complaints about the wording of the opinion polls used to support this proposal, and Freedom of Information Act requests concerning the way these polls were used to manipulate public opinion.

For further information, please contact:

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A copy of our previous press release on the ERCC proposal which gives more information can be seen at:
www.freedomfordrivers.org/ABD_Press023_ERCC_Challenge.pdf

About The Association of British Drivers (ABD)

The ABD is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against tolls and road usage charging. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. The Association is a “not for profit” voluntary organisation which is financially supported primarily by its individual members. More information on the ABD is available from our web site at www.abd.org.uk

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