



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

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ABD OPPOSES OLYMPIC ROUTE PLAN AND £200 PENALTY CHARGE

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) has expressed dismay at the proposals for the Olympic Route Network and the penalties for infringing the additional parking regulations and "Olympic Lanes".

Roger Lawson, ABD London Region Co-Ordinator had this to say: *"We opposed the whole idea of reserved lanes for Olympic use. We see no reason why games administrators, media staff, employees of games sponsors and their guests should be able to occupy valuable road space to the exclusion of Londoners going about their normal business. The proposed penalty of £200 for infringing these lanes is simply outrageous, when there is no justification for it at all"*.

Boris Johnson has said that "It will mean inconvenience for London drivers for 17 days of the games", but this is simply wrong. Taking into account the main Games and the Paralympic Games the restrictions are likely to run from the 27th July when the Games start to the 9th September when the Paralympic Games finish and it is indicated that any Traffic Management Orders will not be lifted until 5 days later, so in total it means **at least 49 days, not 17!**

It also seems likely that many people will be confused by the temporary restrictions, and it is unlikely that the Olympic Reserved Lanes will be marked to the same standards as current bus lanes. **In reality, many people are going to accidentally collect a £200 fine which is simply unreasonable.**

The ABD opposed the whole concept of reserved Olympic Lanes but our comments were ignored.

We have also opposed the iniquitous imposition of high levels of PCN fines for some parking offences and moving traffic infringements. We think even £120 is way too much and have said as much to the recent consultation on "Additional Parking Charges" (see below).

London Boroughs are already making excessive income from minor infringements of traffic regulations, and are using the millions of pounds generated in this way to subsidise other transport costs such as the Freedom Pass. The ABD argues that this is simply wrong and it abuses the common motorist who has to pay these charges.

The Olympics seems to yet another opportunity for boroughs to impose totally unreasonable and excessive charges for minor technical infringements by road users, most of which are likely to be accidental.

More Information

The Olympic Route Network is described in this document: www.london2012.com/orn and the penalty charge consultation is here: www.london2012.com/publications/penalty-charge-level-consultation.php

Reserved lanes will be installed on many roads including Park Lane, Southampton Row, Victoria Embankment (most of it), Tower Hill, The Highway, Limehouse Link, A106 Blackwall Tunnel Northern Approach, A11, A102 Blackwall Tunnel Southern Approach, A2 Shooters Hill Road. These comprise many of the key routes for traffic across central London.

Our response to the ORN penalty charge consultation is here: www.freedomfordrivers.org/ABD_ORN_Penalty_Charge_Response.pdf

The public consultation on the general level of PCN charges in London is present here: www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/Transport/Transportpolicy/APCConsultation.htm

The ABD's response is here: www.freedomfordrivers.org/Parking_Consultation_2010.pdf

Contact

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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 sites at www.freedomfordrivers.org and www.abd.org.uk