The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

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THE OPPRESSIVE PARKING REGIME IN LONDON AND THE PROFITEERING OF LOCAL BOROUGHS

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) has recently examined the level of parking charges in London, and the enforcement of these charges, and has come to the following conclusion: that parking charges are now wildly excessive and that they are being used by London councils to generate massive profits at the expense of road users. They use these profits to subsidise other areas of their expenditure, and particularly the Freedom Pass and other Concessionary Fares.

Similarly moving traffic offences such as bus lane infringements, yellow box junction penalties and other similar offences are growing rapidly (mainly by the use of camera systems) as councils seek to raise money to cover other budget shortfalls.

Roger Lawson, ABD London Region Co-Ordinator had this to say: "*We looked at a number of London boroughs and obtained their revenues and costs under the Freedom of Information legislation, and some boroughs are generating outrageous profits. In addition, they are ignoring past legal judgments that dictated that they should not make profits from permit parking schemes*".

It is clear that there is little democratic control of these charges because the public simply do not know what is being done. There is no consistency between boroughs and the profit motive is resulting in unjust levels of charges. Enforcement is driven not by compliance levels but by the desire to rake in as much cash as possible, while council parking departments build empires by introducing more and more CPZs, ever more complex parking schemes and the use of cameras to spy on road users.

More Information

A detailed report on the data collected from London boroughs, and an analysis of the financial implications is present in this file on our web site: www.freedomfordrivers.org/Profiting_from_Parking.pdf

Data on the revenue and costs from the boroughs of Bromley, Camden, Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Richmond and Westminster were obtained and have been published on this web page: www.freedomfordrivers.org/Borough_Parking_Profits.htm

Note that there has recently been a public consultation on the general level of PCN charges in London which may well be increased further as a result – see: www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/Transport/Transportpolicy/APCConsultation.htm

The ABD's response is to consultation 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

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