



The Alliance of British Drivers

London Region: PO Box 62, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5YB; Tel: 020-8467-2686; Web: www.abd.org.uk

Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

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Rotherhithe Tunnel width restriction to be tightened

An even tighter width restriction of 6'6" is being imposed on the Rotherhithe Tunnel as from the 19th March. It has been signposted as 6'6" for some time but in reality is actually much wider. But the barriers are being moved to impose that actual width. This will mean that only smaller cars can pass through and few commercial vehicles of any kinds. From the experience of such width restrictions elsewhere, many car drivers will attempt to get through, not realising it is too narrow for many vehicles and damage their vehicles thus creating a lot of cost and annoyance.

Transport for London (TfL) was contacted on the 2nd March about this after it was noticed some signs warning of the change had appeared, but have yet to supply details of any public consultation that was performed on this matter or the details of the justification for this change. The existing width restriction effectively stops most commercial vehicles except for a few LGVs, and a 20 mph speed limit was imposed via average speed cameras so this additional restriction seems to be totally unnecessary.

The Rotherhithe Tunnel is used by people from a very wide area, both north and south of the river, particularly when the Blackwall Tunnel is closed or congested - as it now frequently is. It is one of the few river crossings to the East of London. The only alternative route would be Tower Bridge which is some distance away of course and often congested also.

The only public consultation we are aware of on this matter was possibly some announcement in the Borough of Southwark about the new Traffic Order which no doubt hardly anybody saw.

The ABD has asked TfL to put this change on hold until there is adequate information provided and proper public consultation on the matter. Users of this tunnel should do the same.

Contact

For more information contact Roger Lawson on 020-8467-2686, email: roger.lawson@abd.org.uk

About The Alliance of British Drivers (ABD)

The Alliance of British Drivers was formed from a merger between the Association of British Drivers and the Drivers Alliance. 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 Alliance 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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