# Aberdeen Enforces Low Emission Zone to Improve Air Quality



### Implementation of Low Emission Zones in Scottish Cities

The city of Aberdeen will officially enforce its Low Emission Zone (LEZ) starting tomorrow, June 1, 2024. The scheme, designed to improve air quality by restricting high-polluting vehicles from entering the city center, has cost £1.5 million to implement. This expenditure covers the installation of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras, signage, and additional feasibility, appraisal, and consultation efforts.

The LEZ in Aberdeen was formally introduced on May 31, 2022, but enforcement begins now after a two-year grace period. Violators will face a £60 fine for driving non-compliant vehicles into the zone. The rollout has been partly funded by Transport Scotland.

Criticism has come from Scottish Conservative representatives, including MSP Douglas Lumsden and Aberdeen South candidate John Wheeler, who argue that the funds should have been used to enhance the city center rather than restrict access. However, council leaders have emphasized that the final decision on the LEZ was made prior to the current administration taking office.

Similar LEZ initiatives are set to be implemented in Edinburgh and Dundee, while Glasgow has already enforced its LEZ since June the previous year. Transport Scotland defends the LEZ rollout, stating that no level of air pollution is safe and that such measures are crucial for public health.

In other news, Glasgow's LEZ has faced mixed reactions as it reaches its one-year mark. Retail and hospitality sectors have reported significant footfall declines, exacerbating challenges posed by the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis. The local council has collected over £1 million in fines, promising to reinvest in urban greening projects.

Meanwhile, Glasgow has also witnessed traffic congestion issues amid urban planning initiatives like the Avenues projects, which aim to expand bus lanes and cycle expressways but have disrupted former motorist routes.

These measures come as part of broader efforts across Scottish cities to balance environmental goals with economic and infrastructural demands.