# TfL intensifies crackdown on persistent ULEZ fine evaders with vehicle seizures and legal action



Transport for London (TfL) has ramped up enforcement against drivers who persistently evade fines related to the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), warning that continued non-payment could lead to bankruptcy proceedings or direct deductions from wages. Over recent months, TfL has seized more than 1,400 vehicles from drivers refusing to settle penalty charge notices (PCNs), with 530 vehicles seized in a six-month period alone. These measures reflect a targeted effort against a specific group of persistent offenders who owe substantial sums, with outstanding fines reaching up to £280 per charge.

TfL highlighted that 94 percent of ULEZ debt is attributed to individuals with at least four outstanding fines, underscoring a pattern of deliberate evasion among a minority of drivers. To tackle this, the authority is deploying an intelligence-led strategy, including tracking offenders to multiple addresses and enhancing data sharing with national bodies such as the Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority. This approach has yielded significant recoveries, with around £25 million recouped from non-payers over the past year and approximately £16.5 million recovered between January and June alone. Part of these efforts includes the seizure and sale of vehicles, which generated £710,000 in funds.

In addition to seizing vehicles, TfL is escalating enforcement through potential bankruptcy proceedings against those who refuse to pay, and may pursue debts via earnings deductions or require payment prior to property sales. The authority is also trialling revisions to the presentation and wording of penalty notices to improve clarity and encourage prompt payment.

The ULEZ, expanded in August 2023 to cover all 32 London boroughs, requires most petrol vehicles registered before 2005 and diesel vehicles registered before September 2015 to pay a daily charge of £12.50 upon entering the zone if they do not meet emissions standards. Non-payment results in a PCN, initially £180 and rising to £270 (or £280 in some statements) when ignored, contributing to an outstanding ULEZ fine debt valued at nearly £790 million at the end of the last financial year.

Despite the enforcement challenges, data shows that compliance across London is high, with over 96 percent of vehicles now meeting emissions standards within the ULEZ. TfL’s chief customer and strategy officer, Alex Williams, emphasised that “most drivers who have vehicles liable for the charge are responsible and pay it,” adding that only a small minority of persistent evaders are failing to meet their obligations. The revenue generated from ULEZ fines and charges is reinvested into public transport improvements, such as enhancing bus routes, particularly in outer London.

TfL has also tripled the size of its investigations team to strengthen collaboration with enforcement agents and tackle repeat offenders more effectively. These steps demonstrate the authority’s commitment to maintaining the environmental goals of the ULEZ while ensuring the scheme’s financial sustainability through robust enforcement.

In summary, while the expansion of the ULEZ has largely been met with compliance, TfL’s intensified enforcement measures are a clear signal to persistent fine evaders that evasion will not be tolerated, with financial and legal consequences increasingly likely for those who ignore their obligations.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/tfl-warns-ulez-fine-dodgers-32513426), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/16/tfl-seizes-vehicles-drivers-ignore-london-ulez-fines), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/16/sadiq-khan-ultra-low-emission-zone-compliant-cars-bailiffs/), [[4]](https://www.marshall-leasing.co.uk/blog/2024/11/18/785/tfl_triples_ulez_investigations_staff), [[7]](https://www.fleetnews.co.uk/news/tfl-seizes-530-vehicles-for-non-payment-of-ulez-fines)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/tfl-warns-ulez-fine-dodgers-32513426), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/16/tfl-seizes-vehicles-drivers-ignore-london-ulez-fines), [[4]](https://www.marshall-leasing.co.uk/blog/2024/11/18/785/tfl_triples_ulez_investigations_staff), [[5]](https://ground.news/article/drivers-warned-they-face-bankruptcy-if-they-evade-ulez-fines_68530a), [[6]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/october/tfl-steps-up-enforcement-against-persistent-ulez-penalty-charge-evaders), [[7]](https://www.fleetnews.co.uk/news/tfl-seizes-530-vehicles-for-non-payment-of-ulez-fines)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/tfl-warns-ulez-fine-dodgers-32513426), [[5]](https://ground.news/article/drivers-warned-they-face-bankruptcy-if-they-evade-ulez-fines_68530a), [[6]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/october/tfl-steps-up-enforcement-against-persistent-ulez-penalty-charge-evaders)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/tfl-warns-ulez-fine-dodgers-32513426), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/16/tfl-seizes-vehicles-drivers-ignore-london-ulez-fines), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/16/sadiq-khan-ultra-low-emission-zone-compliant-cars-bailiffs/), [[4]](https://www.marshall-leasing.co.uk/blog/2024/11/18/785/tfl_triples_ulez_investigations_staff), [[5]](https://ground.news/article/drivers-warned-they-face-bankruptcy-if-they-evade-ulez-fines_68530a), [[6]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/october/tfl-steps-up-enforcement-against-persistent-ulez-penalty-charge-evaders), [[7]](https://www.fleetnews.co.uk/news/tfl-seizes-530-vehicles-for-non-payment-of-ulez-fines)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/tfl-warns-ulez-fine-dodgers-32513426), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/16/tfl-seizes-vehicles-drivers-ignore-london-ulez-fines), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/16/sadiq-khan-ultra-low-emission-zone-compliant-cars-bailiffs/), [[4]](https://www.marshall-leasing.co.uk/blog/2024/11/18/785/tfl_triples_ulez_investigations_staff), [[5]](https://ground.news/article/drivers-warned-they-face-bankruptcy-if-they-evade-ulez-fines_68530a), [[6]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/october/tfl-steps-up-enforcement-against-persistent-ulez-penalty-charge-evaders), [[7]](https://www.fleetnews.co.uk/news/tfl-seizes-530-vehicles-for-non-payment-of-ulez-fines)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/16/tfl-seizes-vehicles-drivers-ignore-london-ulez-fines), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/16/sadiq-khan-ultra-low-emission-zone-compliant-cars-bailiffs/), [[4]](https://www.marshall-leasing.co.uk/blog/2024/11/18/785/tfl_triples_ulez_investigations_staff)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/tfl-warns-ulez-fine-dodgers-32513426), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/16/tfl-seizes-vehicles-drivers-ignore-london-ulez-fines), [[4]](https://www.marshall-leasing.co.uk/blog/2024/11/18/785/tfl_triples_ulez_investigations_staff), [[5]](https://ground.news/article/drivers-warned-they-face-bankruptcy-if-they-evade-ulez-fines_68530a), [[6]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/october/tfl-steps-up-enforcement-against-persistent-ulez-penalty-charge-evaders)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/tfl-warns-ulez-fine-dodgers-32513426> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/16/tfl-seizes-vehicles-drivers-ignore-london-ulez-fines> - Transport for London (TfL) has intensified enforcement against drivers who persistently ignore fines related to London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Over the past year, more than 1,400 vehicles were seized from individuals who failed to pay penalty charge notices (PCNs). Bailiffs working on behalf of TfL recouped £25 million from those refusing to pay fines. The ULEZ, which expanded to cover all 32 London boroughs in August 2023, requires vehicles not meeting certain emissions standards to pay a £12.50 daily charge. Non-payment can lead to fines up to £180, escalating to £270 if ignored. Persistent evaders face further enforcement actions, including vehicle seizures and potential bankruptcy proceedings. TfL is also tripling its investigations team to bolster efforts against repeat offenders. The revenue generated from the ULEZ scheme is reinvested into public transport improvements, such as enhancing bus routes in outer London. Despite the expansion, the majority of vehicles in the ULEZ are compliant, with over 96% meeting the emissions standards. However, a small minority of drivers continue to evade charges, prompting TfL to implement stricter enforcement measures to ensure compliance and address outstanding debts.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/16/sadiq-khan-ultra-low-emission-zone-compliant-cars-bailiffs/> - In a concerted effort to enforce London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) regulations, Transport for London (TfL) has seized over 1,400 vehicles from drivers who persistently ignored fines. The ULEZ, which expanded to cover all 32 London boroughs in August 2023, requires vehicles not meeting specific emissions standards to pay a £12.50 daily charge. Non-compliance can result in fines up to £180, escalating to £270 if unpaid. Persistent offenders face further enforcement actions, including vehicle seizures and potential bankruptcy proceedings. TfL has also tripled the size of its investigations team to enhance collaboration with enforcement agents targeting repeat offenders. The revenue generated from the ULEZ scheme is reinvested into public transport improvements, such as enhancing bus routes in outer London. Despite the expansion, the majority of vehicles in the ULEZ are compliant, with over 96% meeting the emissions standards. However, a small minority of drivers continue to evade charges, prompting TfL to implement stricter enforcement measures to ensure compliance and address outstanding debts.
4. <https://www.marshall-leasing.co.uk/blog/2024/11/18/785/tfl_triples_ulez_investigations_staff> - Transport for London (TfL) has intensified its efforts to recover unpaid Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) fines by tripling the size of its investigations team. This move aims to bolster collaboration with enforcement agents targeting repeat offenders. Over the 12 months leading up to July 2024, TfL recouped £25 million from individuals who failed to pay penalty charge notices (PCNs) related to ULEZ contraventions. A portion of this amount (£710,000) was raised through the seizure and sale of offenders' vehicles. In total, 1,429 vehicles were seized, with 800 of them later sold. The ULEZ, which expanded to cover all 32 London boroughs in August 2023, requires vehicles not meeting certain emissions standards to pay a £12.50 daily charge. Non-compliance can result in fines up to £180, escalating to £270 if unpaid. Persistent offenders face further enforcement actions, including vehicle seizures and potential bankruptcy proceedings. The revenue generated from the ULEZ scheme is reinvested into public transport improvements, such as enhancing bus routes in outer London. Despite the expansion, the majority of vehicles in the ULEZ are compliant, with over 96% meeting the emissions standards. However, a small minority of drivers continue to evade charges, prompting TfL to implement stricter enforcement measures to ensure compliance and address outstanding debts.
5. <https://ground.news/article/drivers-warned-they-face-bankruptcy-if-they-evade-ulez-fines_68530a> - Transport for London (TfL) has intensified enforcement against drivers who persistently evade Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) fines, warning that non-payment could lead to bankruptcy proceedings. A specific group of drivers with long-standing ULEZ debts, who refuse to pay fines that can reach up to £280, are being targeted. TfL's enforcement actions include tracking evaders to different addresses, more effective data sharing with national bodies such as the Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, and trialling changes to the style and format of penalty charge notices (PCNs) to encourage payment. Between January and June, TfL recovered around £16.5 million of debt related to road-user charges and penalties. The ULEZ, which expanded to cover all London boroughs in August 2023, requires vehicles not meeting certain emissions standards to pay a £12.50 daily charge. Non-payment can lead to a PCN, which can escalate up to £280 if ignored. Persistent evaders face further enforcement actions, including vehicle seizures and potential bankruptcy proceedings. The revenue generated from the ULEZ scheme is reinvested into public transport improvements, such as enhancing bus routes in outer London. Despite the expansion, the majority of vehicles in the ULEZ are compliant, with over 96% meeting the emissions standards. However, a small minority of drivers continue to evade charges, prompting TfL to implement stricter enforcement measures to ensure compliance and address outstanding debts.
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7. <https://www.fleetnews.co.uk/news/tfl-seizes-530-vehicles-for-non-payment-of-ulez-fines> - Transport for London (TfL) has intensified enforcement against drivers who persistently evade Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) fines, warning that non-payment could lead to bankruptcy proceedings. A specific group of drivers with long-standing ULEZ debts, who refuse to pay fines that can reach up to £280, are being targeted. TfL's enforcement actions include tracking evaders to different addresses, more effective data sharing with national bodies such as the Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, and trialling changes to the style and format of penalty charge notices (PCNs) to encourage payment. Between January and June, TfL recovered around £16.5 million of debt related to road-user charges and penalties. The ULEZ, which expanded to cover all London boroughs in August 2023, requires vehicles not meeting certain emissions standards to pay a £12.50 daily charge. Non-payment can lead to a PCN, which can escalate up to £280 if ignored. Persistent evaders face further enforcement actions, including vehicle seizures and potential bankruptcy proceedings. The revenue generated from the ULEZ scheme is reinvested into public transport improvements, such as enhancing bus routes in outer London. Despite the expansion, the majority of vehicles in the ULEZ are compliant, with over 96% meeting the emissions standards. However, a small minority of drivers continue to evade charges, prompting TfL to implement stricter enforcement measures to ensure compliance and address outstanding debts.