# London plans tougher penalties for cyclists running red lights amid safety concerns



Cyclists running red lights in London are poised to face stiffer penalties amid growing concerns over road safety and public nuisance caused by dangerous cycling behaviours. The City of London Police is considering enhanced measures, including the use of community protection warnings and notices that could impose fines exceeding the current fixed penalty of £50. This initiative comes in response to a surge in cycling across the capital, fuelled in part by recent Tube strikes and increasing traffic congestion, which has led to a 75 percent rise in rental bike use.

At a recent City of London Corporation meeting, officials acknowledged widespread complaints from the public about cyclists frequently running red lights at busy junctions, dangerously operating e-bikes, and riding on pavements and pedestrianised areas. These issues have sparked comparisons of London’s cycling culture to cities like Hanoi, known for chaotic and often hazardous traffic conditions. Councillor Jacqueline Webster emphasised the need to foster a “culture of courteousness” among cyclists to improve safety and public perception. Bruce McVean, the Corporation's assistant director for policy and projects, noted ongoing collaboration with e-bike rental companies and Transport for London (TfL) to address these challenges, admitting that while progress has been made, more work is needed.

Data underscores the scale of the problem. A survey revealed that over half (52 percent) of London cyclists admit to running red lights, with 16 percent doing so regularly. In 2025 alone, the City of London Police issued 284 fines to cyclists for red light offences—over ten times the 25 fines handed to motorists for the same violation, despite drivers being liable to a £100 fine and penalty points on their licence compared to cyclists’ £50 fixed penalty. This discrepancy has fuelled calls for more robust enforcement to safeguard pedestrians and other road users.

The Metropolitan Police have also intensified efforts to curb dangerous cycling, issuing over 4,000 £50 fines in 2023 to cyclists who ran red lights, alongside broader crackdowns on pavement cycling and other hazardous behaviours. Government consultations have highlighted the human cost of such offences, revealing nearly 2,500 pedestrian injuries and 20 fatalities resulting from collisions with cyclists over a six-year period. These consultations received public backing for tougher laws, although concerns about the practicality and efficacy of enforcement remain.

Education remains a key facet of the enforcement strategy. The City of London Police provide cyclists caught running red lights with an option to attend free cycling roadshows focused on road safety and compliance with traffic laws. Refusal to participate leads to the imposition of a £50 fine. Since the establishment of the City of London’s Cycle Response Unit in mid-2023, nearly 1,000 cyclists have been issued fixed penalty notices for such offences as part of an approach combining education, engagement, and enforcement. TfL also supports cycle training programmes aimed at fostering safe cycling habits and better adherence to the Highway Code.

Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan has launched awareness campaigns urging cyclists to comply with traffic laws, including stopping at red lights. Yet, awareness appears limited: a London survey found only 16 percent of respondents could correctly identify five key cycling rules. This gap in knowledge, coupled with the rising number of cyclists, underscores the challenges faced by authorities in balancing the promotion of cycling as a green transport option with the need to protect pedestrians and maintain orderly road use.

Legal frameworks already impose significant penalties for cyclists who break traffic laws. Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, running a red light is an offence that can lead to fines of up to £1,000 in some cases, with severe legal consequences if the behaviour results in accidents or injuries. Personal injury claims against errant cyclists are not uncommon, and the penalties can escalate substantially if serious harm occurs.

Overall, the City of London is ramping up its response to the hazards posed by reckless cycling through a combination of higher fines, enforcement visibility, and educational initiatives. The goal is not only to improve public safety but also to cultivate a more respectful cycling culture in one of the world’s busiest and most congested urban environments.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15120807/Cyclists-run-red-lights-set-face-harsher-penalties.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/cyclists-fines-jumping-red-lights-city-of-london-b1236074.html), [[5]](https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/news/city-of-london/news/2024/april/nearly-one-thousand-cyclists-given-fixed-penalty-notices/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15120807/Cyclists-run-red-lights-set-face-harsher-penalties.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/news/city-of-london/news/2024/april/nearly-one-thousand-cyclists-given-fixed-penalty-notices/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/cyclists-fines-jumping-red-lights-city-of-london-b1236074.html), [[6]](https://www.gbnews.com/lifestyle/cars/cyclists-traffic-rules-drivers-city-of-london-offenders-penalties)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/cyclists-london-running-led-lights-met-police-crackdown-b1168569.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/dangerous-cycling-0), [[5]](https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/news/city-of-london/news/2024/april/nearly-one-thousand-cyclists-given-fixed-penalty-notices/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15120807/Cyclists-run-red-lights-set-face-harsher-penalties.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/dangerous-cycling-0)
* Paragraph 7 – [[7]](https://www.gcoffey.co.uk/our-services/personal-injury-services/motor-vehicle-accident/cyclist-injury-claims/resources/running-red-light-and-causing-accident-penalty-cyclist)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15120807/Cyclists-run-red-lights-set-face-harsher-penalties.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/news/city-of-london/news/2024/april/nearly-one-thousand-cyclists-given-fixed-penalty-notices/), [[6]](https://www.gbnews.com/lifestyle/cars/cyclists-traffic-rules-drivers-city-of-london-offenders-penalties)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15120807/Cyclists-run-red-lights-set-face-harsher-penalties.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/cyclists-fines-jumping-red-lights-city-of-london-b1236074.html> - In 2025, cyclists in the City of London were fined ten times more than motorists for running red lights. A survey revealed that 52% of London cyclists admitted to this behaviour, with 16% doing so regularly. The City of London Police issued 284 fines to cyclists and 25 to motorists for the same offence. Cyclists face a £50 fine, while drivers face a £100 fine and three penalty points. The increase in cycling has led to calls for stricter enforcement to ensure road safety.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/cyclists-london-running-led-lights-met-police-crackdown-b1168569.html> - In 2023, an average of 11 cyclists per day were fined £50 each for running red lights in London, totaling 4,067 fines for the year. The Metropolitan Police intensified efforts to address cyclists' dangerous behaviour, including riding on pavements. A government consultation revealed that 2,491 pedestrians were injured by cyclists over six years, with 20 fatalities. The consultation received support for tougher laws, though concerns about enforcement were raised.
4. <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/dangerous-cycling-0> - The City of London Police offers cyclists caught running red lights the option to attend a cycling roadshow for education on road rules and safety. Refusal to attend results in a £50 fixed penalty. Between July 2023 and April 2024, 944 fixed penalty notices were issued. The Metropolitan Police Service issues traffic offence reports to cyclists, offering online retraining schemes or fines. Between January 2023 and May 2024, 4,875 reports were issued. TfL funds cycle training sessions focusing on safe behaviours and compliance with the highway code.
5. <https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/news/city-of-london/news/2024/april/nearly-one-thousand-cyclists-given-fixed-penalty-notices/> - Since the introduction of the City of London's Cycle Response Unit in July 2023, nearly 1,000 cyclists have received fixed penalty notices for running red lights. The unit focuses on education, engagement, and enforcement to improve road safety. Cyclists caught running red lights are offered the opportunity to attend a free roadshow; refusal results in a £50 fine. The initiative aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and enhance safety for all road users.
6. <https://www.gbnews.com/lifestyle/cars/cyclists-traffic-rules-drivers-city-of-london-offenders-penalties> - Cyclists in the City of London have been fined more than ten times the rate of motorists for running red lights. In 2025, 284 cyclists received fixed penalty notices compared to 25 motorists. The surge in cycling has led to increased calls for enforcement to ensure pedestrian safety. Cyclists can face fines up to £1,000 for red light offences, with the City of London Police targeting hotspots using intelligence-led policing.
7. <https://www.gcoffey.co.uk/our-services/personal-injury-services/motor-vehicle-accident/cyclist-injury-claims/resources/running-red-light-and-causing-accident-penalty-cyclist> - Running a red light is unlawful under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and can lead to serious accidents and legal consequences. Cyclists caught running red lights typically face a £50 fixed penalty notice. If an accident occurs, the cyclist may be held liable, leading to personal injury claims. Penalties for dangerous cycling can include fines up to £2,500. In extreme cases, particularly if someone is seriously injured, more severe charges could apply.