# US Embassy in London Leads in Unpaid Congestion Charge Fees Among Embassies



The US Embassy in London has accumulated £14.6 million in unpaid congestion charge fees, the highest among all embassies in the city. Transport for London (TfL) released statistics revealing that the entire diplomatic community in London owes a total of £143.5 million in unpaid fees. The Japanese Embassy and the High Commission of India follow with debts of £10.1 million and £8.6 million, respectively.

The congestion charge, which began in 2003, requires a £15 daily fee for driving in central London during specified hours. TfL asserts that this fee is not a tax but a charge for a service, implying diplomats are obligated to pay it. Despite most embassies complying, a minority, including the US, have refused, claiming diplomatic exemptions. TfL plans to pursue these debts potentially through the International Court of Justice and has sought the UK government's support in rectifying these unpaid fees.