# Eight arrested over escalating attacks on London’s Ulez cameras amid deep public backlash



Eight individuals have been arrested by the Metropolitan Police in connection with an alleged conspiracy to destroy Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez) cameras across London and its surrounding areas. The group, comprising six men and two women, face charges related to conspiracy to commit criminal damage, with one suspect also accused of threatening and harassing a repair team dispatched to fix a vandalized camera. These arrests come amidst growing concerns over the escalating vandalism and hostility toward Ulez infrastructure—an ideological attack on policies aimed at reducing pollution, which are increasingly viewed as overreach and burdensome burdens on ordinary drivers.

Superintendent Paul Thomas of the Met’s Roads and Transport Policing Command tried to portray these acts as criminal rather than protest, emphasizing the risks posed—such as road hazards, potential accidents, and widespread disruption. Yet, this framing conveniently overlooks the broader frustrations many share about the scheme’s impact on everyday people, who are being coerced into compliance through intimidation and sabotage rather than rational debate. The police have urged the public to provide any information on plans to target cameras, revealing the ongoing and complex nature of this political vandalism.

This crackdown is just the latest chapter in a troubling pattern of hostility directed at Ulez infrastructure over the past year. Between April and November 2023 alone, the Met investigated nearly 1,000 incidents of vandalism, theft, and attack against these cameras, with 220 stolen and 767 damaged—yet only a handful have resulted in prosecutions. Despite hundreds of reported attacks, only one person was convicted by September 2023, exposing the glaring failure of authorities to uphold law and order against this wave of discontent.

Among the most severe incidents was a December 2023 explosion at a Ulez camera in Sidcup, which involved a rudimentary improvised explosive device. Although no injuries occurred, the attack damaged property and prompted involvement from the Met’s Counter Terrorism Command—highlighting how political activism has turned dangerous. Two men aged 60 and 61 were arrested; one was charged with criminal damage, while later, in November 2024, Kevin Rees (62) faced charges over causing an explosion that threatened lives and property, as well as possessing prohibited weapons. These measures, however, are merely reactive, much like the limited prosecutions seen so far.

In September 2024, social media was used to incite further vandalism, as Joseph Nicholls, aged 43 from Sidcup, received a suspended jail sentence after urging followers to damage Ulez cameras—an obvious sign of organized defiance rather than isolated acts of protest. This pattern reveals a deepening resistance to what many see as unjust mandates disguised as environmental policy.

The ongoing political and policing responses are strained and often ineffective. While attacks continue to occur, few perpetrators are held accountable, indicating a failure of the system to address the underlying dissatisfaction—fueling the cycle of vandalism and unrest. The authorities’ focus appears more on damage control than tackling the root causes of opposition, which include public frustration over rising costs and perceived overreach by the government.

Destroying Ulez cameras not only hampers efforts to improve air quality but radicals are also endangering road safety and undermining legitimate attempts to modernize urban transport. The recent arrests and investigations, while necessary, only scratch the surface of a mounting crisis—driven by policies that threaten to impose draconian restrictions on hardworking UK citizens. Until such schemes are rolled back, these acts of sabotage are likely to persist, reflecting the deep discontent with a government that refuses to listen.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ulez-cameras-destoyed-court-london-b2781335.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/dec/18/counter-terrorism-police-arrest-two-men-after-ulez-camera-blown-up-in-south-east-london> - In December 2023, two men, aged 60 and 61, were arrested by the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command after an explosion damaged a ULEZ camera in Sidcup, south-east London. The 61-year-old was also arrested on suspicion of criminal damage. The incident, which occurred on 6 December, involved a low-sophistication improvised explosive device. No injuries were reported, but nearby vehicles and property sustained damage. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/dec/18/counter-terrorism-police-arrest-two-men-after-ulez-camera-blown-up-in-south-east-london?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/two-men-aged-60-and-61-arrested-by-counter-terror-police-over-ulez-camera-explosion-13033645> - Following the explosion of a ULEZ camera in Sidcup, south-east London, two men, aged 60 and 61, were arrested by counter-terrorism police. The 61-year-old was also arrested on suspicion of criminal damage. The explosion occurred on 6 December 2023, damaging the camera and surrounding property. ([news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/two-men-aged-60-and-61-arrested-by-counter-terror-police-over-ulez-camera-explosion-13033645?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://news.met.police.uk/news/man-charged-in-connection-with-ulez-camera-explosion-in-sidcup-490315> - In November 2024, Kevin Rees, 62, from Sidcup, was charged with causing an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property, following an investigation into a ULEZ camera explosion in Sidcup in December 2023. He was also charged with three counts of possessing a prohibited weapon. Rees was due to appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on 11 November 2024. ([news.met.police.uk](https://news.met.police.uk/news/man-charged-in-connection-with-ulez-camera-explosion-in-sidcup-490315?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/met-police-investigate-nearly-1000-incidents-of-ulez-cameras-being-stolen-or-vandalised-12997982> - Between April and November 2023, the Metropolitan Police investigated nearly 1,000 incidents involving the theft or vandalism of ULEZ cameras. Of these, 220 were reports of cameras being stolen, and 767 related to devices being damaged. Three people were charged in connection with these offences. ([news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/met-police-investigate-nearly-1000-incidents-of-ulez-cameras-being-stolen-or-vandalised-12997982?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/09/london-ulez-cameras-damage-only-one-person-prosecution/> - Despite hundreds of reports of damage to ULEZ cameras, only one person was facing prosecution as of September 2023. The Metropolitan Police had received more than 600 reports of attacks on ULEZ cameras since the start of the year, with 222 reported attacks in August alone. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/09/london-ulez-cameras-damage-only-one-person-prosecution/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cr54dy09epmo> - In September 2024, Joseph Nicholls, 43, from Sidcup, was sentenced for encouraging ULEZ camera vandalism. He had shared a message on Facebook in April 2023 encouraging people to damage and dismantle ULEZ cameras. Nicholls received a suspended jail sentence and was ordered to pay compensation. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr54dy09epmo?utm_source=openai))