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Alex Rowley MSP
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Our Reference: 202400405224
Your Reference: AR6429

11 April 2024

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2024 relaying your constituent's concerns regarding the impact of Edinburgh's Low Emission Zone (LEZ) on shift workers.

LEZs are being introduced to ensure that all of us, but particularly the oldest, youngest and those with pre-existing medical conditions, are protected from the harmful impacts of poor air quality. The University of Dundee Professor Jill Belch, who jointly authored a report on health and air quality, recently emphasised the importance of the Scottish LEZs in protecting the public health of all of us, in particular children.

While the most polluting of vehicles are effectively banned from being driven within the zone your constituent should note that each LEZ is less than one mile square, therefore it may be possible that he could park his vehicle at the LEZ boundary and complete the remainder of the journey on foot.

I would also highlight that it is not necessary to switch to a brand new or electric vehicle as the majority of vehicles on the road are already compliant. For example, Euro 4 petrol cars (generally vehicles registered from January 2006) and Euro 6 diesel cars (generally vehicles registered from September 2015) meet the minimum emission standards and can be driven in any Scottish LEZ. Full details regarding LEZ standards, and our online vehicle checker, can be found on the Low Emission Zone Scotland website - <https://www.lowemissionzones.scot/>.

Finally, although there is no national exemption specific to shift workers, LEZs are enforced and administered by local authorities and as such each local authority has the power to set local time limited exemptions. Your constituent may wish to contact City of Edinburgh Council regarding this at LEZ@edinburgh.gov.uk.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



If you have any further questions regarding Edinburgh LEZ you may wish to review the information available on their website or contact the relevant local authority LEZ team via the above email address:

Edinburgh LEZ Webpage: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/lez>

I hope this information is of assistance, however, if you wish to discuss the matter further with my officials please contact Vincent.McInally@transport.gov.scot.

Yours sincerely



FIONA HYSLOP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport

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