

# The Daily Telegraph

## The case for Ulez

### Letter to the Editor

Sir - As health experts and professionals with many years' combined experience studying the impact of air pollution on patients, we are in full support of extending the Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez) to cover the whole of London (report, December 25).

Getting the most polluting vehicles off the roads, as well as providing financial support for those who need it to make this transition, is one of the most effective ways to reduce emissions from road transport and improve air quality. This is what the Ulez does.

The UK has the highest death rate from lung conditions in Western Europe, and London's toxic air is firmly at the heart of this crisis.

Air pollution across the capital is still breaching legal limits and it far exceeds safer World Health Organisation guidelines. In 2019, toxic air contributed to more than 4,000 premature deaths in London. The highest number of premature deaths each year due to toxic air is in outer London boroughs such as Barnet, Bromley and Croydon, which the Ulez does not currently cover.

Improving air quality will also help to reduce health inequities. Research has shown that children living in the most polluted areas of London develop smaller lungs, and an increasing body of evidence shows the link between breathing in toxic air and developing heart disease, lung disease and dementia.

Bold action is needed to tackle the huge health burden of air pollution, and we commend the Mayor of London for taking this important step.

### Contributors to the joint letter:

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