

Transport for London



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Dear Mr Conacher

Proposed 7.5T weight limit on Feltham Road and Chertsey Road

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2008 to my colleague John Clarke describing your proposal to introduce a goods vehicle weight limit of 7.5 tonnes on Feltham Road and parts of Chertsey Road.

TfL have an interest in this proposal because of the proximity to the London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) boundary. Drivers approaching London from Surrey along the A244 Cadbury Road or B377 Feltham Road reach the LEZ boundary at the junction of the A244 Chertsey Road and B377 Ashford Road. Non compliant vehicles have the opportunity to avoid entering the zone using Chertsey Road southbound or Ashford Road westbound, depending on their approach direction.

TfL experience since 4 February when the scheme commenced has shown that the owners of the majority of affected vehicles have taken action to make their vehicles compliant with the LEZ. Currently only 4% of affected vehicles driving within the zone do not meet the required standards so there is very little incentive for operators to avoid the LEZ. Nevertheless, diversion routes or U-turn opportunities are provided at every entry into the zone for infrequent visitors to safely avoid the zone if they wish. Vehicles are unlikely to use a diversion route more than once and TfL considers that any induced traffic on a diversion route would be negligible.

MAYOR OF LONDON



VAT number 756 2769 90

From 7 July 2008 goods vehicles over 3.5T and buses and coaches over 5T will be subject to the LEZ. Introducing a 7.5T weight restriction on Feltham Road could be difficult to enforce because operators driving non-LEZ compliant vehicles would argue that, without a suitable turn-around opportunity provided prior to the start of the 7.5T ban, they had no choice other than to use Feltham Road.

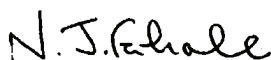
Without such a turn-around opportunity I presume you had planned to agree advance signing with Hounslow on the A244 Chertsey Road northbound, approaching the Ashford Road junction? There is already an LEZ advance sign on this approach advising drivers to turn left into Ashford Road to avoid the zone. A sign also advising drivers of a 7.5T ban in the same direction would be contradictory to certain drivers and is likely to create driver confusion. Such confusion could potentially create a hazardous situation with drivers of non-LEZ compliant vehicles over 7.5T not knowing what to do at the junction.

For these reasons TfL does not support the proposed introduction of a goods vehicle weight limit of 7.5 tonnes on Feltham Road. Such a proposal is deemed unnecessary and could potentially have negative impacts on local residents if implemented.

TfL have no comments relating to the proposal to introduce a 7.5T weight restriction on Chertsey Road between the A308 and A244.

Thank you for providing TfL with the opportunity to make a representation to the Spelthorne Local Committee on 30 June and I look forward to hearing from you about any response or decisions made by the Committee after the meeting.

Yours sincerely



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