



MAG Position Statement

Clean Air Zones

In brief

The Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) promotes the exemption of mopeds, motorcycles and scooters of all ages, both conventional internal combustion engine and electric, in all charging Clean Air Zones (CAZs). Charging of powered two wheelers (PTWs) in any CAZ is counterproductive to the goals of reducing air pollution and is socially regressive.

The benefits

PTWs offer a solution to the issues surrounding today's congested towns and cities. The Governments guidance on CAZs specifically states that motorcycles are not expected to be included in charging schemes due to the fact that they emit negligible proportions of overall emissions.

- PTWs emit negligible amounts of NOx.
- PTWs can move through traffic, spending less time stationary and causing pollution.
- Modal shift from single occupancy cars to PTWs can reduce congestion and pollution.

Charging any vehicle to enter a CAZ does not directly reduce pollution.

Charging owners of older vehicles is discriminatory, especially against those in the lower earning/social structure who can neither afford to purchase a newer, exempt, vehicle nor use public transport (should public transport even be suitable for their journeys).

Encouraging premature scrappage of serviceable older machines is counterproductive in terms of overall "carbon footprint".

If any PTW users switch to cars then congestion will increase. However, if 10% of car users switch to PTWs there will be a 40% reduction in congestion and an overall reduction in emissions of all pollutants*.

Currently

At the present time there are no authorities proposing to implement a charge for PTWs in the UK with the exception of London, which introduced a charge for PTWs in the Ultra Low Emission Zone in April 2019. MAG has and continues to submit responses to all consultations.

MAG position

MAG is opposed to the charging of mopeds, motorcycles and scooters to enter Clean Air Zones.

MAG builds arguments based on facts and we will present these to any authority looking to introduce charges for mopeds, motorcycles and scooters in any Clean Air Zone.

*Figures from the Belgian Transport & Mobility Leuven study