

Low Emission Zone (LEZ) – autumn 2023 update

The City of Edinburgh Council
Placemaking & Mobility
26 September 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 To reduce harmful emissions and improve public health the Council agreed to introduce a city centre Low Emission Zone (LEZ), with a two-year grace period for all. This was approved by Scottish Ministers and was introduced in May 2022. Glasgow's LEZ has been enforced since 1 June 2023.

2. Install programme

- 2.1 Over the coming months you will see changes on our streets to allow us to enforce the LEZ from 1 June 2024 onwards and to help people plan their journeys. We are reaching out to you to provide an update on the installation programme of the LEZ, in your role as Transport & Environment Committee members, ward councillors or community councils that have constituents in the LEZ or whose wards immediately border it.
- 2.2 Contractors will begin installing signage and columns from October 2023 and anticipate that they will all be in place before the end of 2023. These works will take place around the LEZ boundary across the city centre. Signage will be installed in accordance with statutory requirements. Example imagery of signage is provided on our 'installing the LEZ' webpage. Signage will also include temporary plates to indicate that LEZ enforcement will only take place from 1 June 2024 onwards. Signage and columns work will involve the digging of pavements but contractors will do all they can to reduce disruption to residents and pedestrians, providing safe diversionary routes where required.
- 2.3 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras will be installed according to statutory requirements, in late 2023/early 2024 and a mobile enforcement vehicle will be active from June 2024 onwards. The Council will not disclose the locations of any LEZ ANPR cameras to ensure that drivers do not avoid enforcement, in order to protect the environment and to ensure drivers abide by the regulations without unintended consequences.
- 2.4 The Council operates a zero tolerance policy to those damaging any public property including but not limited to LEZ signage, columns, power supplies, ANPR cameras, and vehicles. The Council also operates a zero tolerance policy to harassment, assault or other criminal behaviour against those installing LEZ infrastructure or operating the LEZ, including Council officers, contractors and consultants. We will work with Police Scotland to prosecute anyone acting unlawfully in this regard.

- 2.5 We are also making changes to street layouts and signals around the LEZ boundary that will take place in early 2024. These changes include:
- Making Morrison Street two-way to all traffic from the Morrison Link-Morrison Street junction to the Dewar Place-Morrison Street junction
 - Addition of a right hand turn from Morrison Link to Morrison Street eastbound and associated signal changes
 - Signal changes and pedestrian crossing improvements at the Morrison Street-Gardners' Crescent-Dewar Place junction, including build outs, removal of guard railing, addition of cycle parking and addition of planters
 - Upgrading footways at St David's Place and St David's Terrace on Morrison Street, to become 'continuous'
 - Banning of right hand turn to all traffic from Morrison Street westbound to Gardners' Crescent, to provide additional 'green man' time for priority east-west pedestrian movements
 - Allowing a right hand turn to all traffic from Home Street to Brougham Street, at Tollcross junction
 - A new right turn filter from the Pleasance to Holyrood Road
- 2.6 We will provide more information on the impacts for these installations closer to the time. We will inform affected residents and businesses at Morrison Street ahead of work, where disruption is anticipated to be greatest.
- 2.7 This [information is available on our webpages](#). Following this briefing, we will issue a press release to inform the wider public. We ask for your help in disseminating this information to your constituents and communities.

3. Monitoring

- 3.1. Data analysed by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) revealed that overall compliance with Edinburgh's LEZ emissions standards had increased from 48% to 78% over the last six years. Compliance is particularly high amongst the local buses (97%), with Lothian Buses being 100% compliant. Petrol cars (95%) and lorries (86%) also have high compliance rates, yet diesel cars are only 50% compliant.
- 3.2. Restricting the most polluting vehicles will significantly reduce harmful emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from vehicles by up to 50% within the LEZ.
- 3.3. A repeat traffic survey for 2023/24 is currently being considered by the Council, with support from Transport Scotland and SEPA.
- 3.4. A repeat of the independent market research undertaken in 2022 surveyed drivers in Edinburgh in June 2023 to monitor awareness and understanding of the LEZ. This included representative samples of individuals and small businesses (vans) driving in Edinburgh.

- 3.5. There was a significant increase in LEZ awareness compared with 2022, highlighting the success of the Council and Transport Scotland's communications campaigns. The boundary is well understood and van drivers are well aware of changes. Most drivers continue to support the LEZ and think protecting public health is an important topic.
- 3.6. Monitoring information is available on our [webpages](#)

4. Contact

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