



Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
Sent by email: mayor@london.gov.uk

April 2026

End carspreading and protect children's lives

Dear Mayor Khan,

We very much welcome your renewed commitment in London's Vision Zero Action Plan 2 to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries by 2041. We are also grateful for your leadership on the need to tackle dangerous and oversized cars.

Around a third of all cars on London's roads are now larger SUVs. This is especially concerning for children, who are far more likely to die if struck by one. It is unsurprising then that 61% of London parents are concerned bigger cars make it more dangerous for children to walk and cycle (YouGov, 16% disagree).

This unnecessary trend of ever bigger cars - *known as 'Carspreading'* - is putting lives at risk and adding to a myriad of other problems in London. New cars are getting 1cm wider on average every two years, causing bus delays, parking stress and traffic congestion. Internal combustion SUVs burn around 20% more fuel, which is totally undermining London's action on air pollution and climate.

We welcome TfL's commitment to 'analyse the issue' but the impacts of SUVs are well documented already.

The time to act is now, as is already happening elsewhere.

Paris tripled parking fees for heavy cars and Edinburgh banned SUV advertising. Why not here in London? We urge you to act before it is too late, including by:

- Integrating an oversized vehicle levy into London road pricing schemes;
- Ending the paradox of SUV advertising on TfL's website and billboards;
- Supporting boroughs to incorporate vehicle size into parking tariffs;
- Delivering alternatives, including electric car clubs and cargo bike sharing;
- Campaigning for maximum vehicle dimensions and for Vehicle Excise Duty to include a progressively higher tax proportional to the vehicle's weight.

We support your commitment to a safer, fairer and healthier city for everyone. Will you please meet with us to discuss the above at the earliest opportunity?

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Lord, Head of UK, Clean Cities

James Ward, Co-Director, Adfree Cities

Jemima Hartshorn, Founder and Director, Mums for Lungs

Nicola Pastore, Co-founder, Solve The School Run

Silviya Barrett, Director of Policy and Research, Campaign for Better Transport

Francesca Agostini, Co-founder, Green School Runs

Jeremy Leach Co-founder, Action Vision Zero

Anna Krajinska, Director, T&E UK

Alice Roberts, Campaigns Director, CPRE London

Rachel White, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, Head of Policy and Communications

Kyle Lischak, Head of UK, ClientEarth

Juliet Michaelson, Co-Director, Possible

Tanya Braun, Director of External Affairs and Fundraising, Living Streets

Tom Fyans, Chief Executive, London Cycling Campaign

Love Ssega, Founder, LIVE + BREATHE

Robert Davis, Chair Road Danger Reduction Forum