London Congestion Charge (2003) — Traffic Entering the Zone Down 21% Five Years On, but Congestion Back at Pre-Charge Levels

City Innovation Library · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Since February 2003 London charges drivers entering a central zone (£5, raised to £8 in 2005). TfL reports 21% fewer vehicles entering by 2008 and £137m net revenue in 2007/08, but congestion returned to pre-charge levels.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-10-28

Transport for London (TfL) / Greater London Authority — accessed 2026-10-28

TfL: Congestion Charging five years on (2008) — accessed 2026-10-28

Summary of Leape (2006), Journal of Economic Perspectives — accessed 2026-10-28

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