

Appendix G: Lambeth Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Exemption Policy

Our Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) maintain access to all streets by motor vehicle, even if journeys can take a little longer in some cases. The key objective of LTNs is to reduce traffic across our neighbourhoods, creating safe, attractive streets and spaces that encourage more people to get around without a car. This is part of wider strategy to reduce traffic across the borough. To make this happen we all need to play our part and that means that any exemptions and dispensations need to be based on evidence of need, be compatible with the overall objective and be deliverable. The categories we have identified are the result of a structured process considering these factors and integrated with our equality impact analysis of the LTNs.

Our trial LTNs already include exemptions for Emergency Service vehicles, pedal cycles, buses and certain other vehicles carrying out statutory duties. In addition to the above, there are a small number of cases where access to a property is restricted – for example where the property is within a ‘modal filter’ area – and we have included exemptions for vehicles that otherwise would not have access. These exemptions will remain in place.

In addition to the above, we have identified the need for a limited range of dispensations for other users / vehicle types. Where a dispensation has been issued, we will not enforce the LTN restrictions.

It is crucial that our LTNs are fair to everyone, and we recognise that for some people having access to a car to get around is essential for their health and wellbeing. During our engagement on the LTNs we have received a lot of correspondence from disabled people on this topic. We have also carried out targeted engagement with protected groups, including disabled people who drive, or rely on others to drive them.

Based on the evidence, we have agreed a dispensation for Blue Badge holders. This covers both individual Blue Badge holders as well as organisations who qualify for a Blue Badge, such as SEND transport providers. We have also identified a dispensation for taxis and fully accessible private hire vehicles that provide an important service for some disabled people.

We are working with the NHS to identify which of the services they provide may need a dispensation. Emergency Services are already exempt, and we have led the way across London in ensuring that good access to LTNs is maintained at all times for emergency response vehicles.

We need to lead by example and so dispensations for Council services will also be limited, refuse collection vehicles and in emergency situations for example.

In summary, Lambeth’s Low Traffic Neighbourhoods will allow exemptions / dispensations for the following categories:

- Emergency Services
- Buses and pedal cycles
- Rapid response healthcare providers
- Category 1 Responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- *Blue Badge holders – individuals and organisations
- **Taxis and fully accessible private hire vehicles
- Refuse collection vehicles

We are not proposing a general exemption or dispensation for residents who live within LTNs. It is an important principle that no particular group should have privileged access to the public highway unless there is a compelling case that can be evidenced, such as in the case of some disabled people. Granting a general resident exemption would run contrary to this and be incompatible with the aims of the scheme. We are asking everyone to make a change to reduce their reliance on motor vehicles – for trips that start in our LTNs or anywhere else in the borough.

There is much else we can do to improve people's experience of LTNs beyond exemptions and dispensations. As well as proposing significant access and public realm improvements, we are also developing a programme of other supporting activity that will enable as many people as possible to benefit from the opportunity to walk, cycle, scoot or wheel on quieter, safer streets.

We will continue to review our approach, based on the principles set out in this policy.

*Based on analysis of what you have told us, we are proposing to invite individual BB holders living anywhere in Lambeth to nominate a particular modal filter through which they will be allowed to pass. BB holders will be able to register up to two vehicles, whether their own, or the vehicle of someone who visits them on a regular basis, such as a carer.

**On application, taxis and fully accessible private hire vehicles will be granted a dispensation to permit them to pass through bus gates within LTNs.