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RAC reacts to Environmental Audit Committee response to Defra air quality consultation

RAC chief engineer David Bizley said: “There are a number of positive points in the Committee’s response. The RAC supports the call for a strong, consistent national framework which would give motorists and businesses more certainty over what plans local authorities may have operating within their town centres. At the same time, the proposals as they stand do not require local authorities to adopt measures that are consistent with Defra’s clean air zone framework. It is essential that incentives are put in place to ensure any local measures taken are consistent with this framework.

“Encouraging motorists to swap to cleaner vehicles through a scrappage scheme may certainly help in reducing poor local air quality, but there must also be bolder plans to replace heavily-polluting bus and taxi fleets. London’s Ultra Low Emission Zone is a good example of a plan which aims to reduce emissions from the most polluting vehicles, including buses and taxis.

“Any changes to VED must take into account that diesel vehicles have helped reduce CO2 emissions significantly. It is important to realise that many motorists were effectively encouraged to switch to diesel due to the incentive of lower tax rates as the system is based on CO2 emissions levels.”

The press office email address is press.office@rac.co.uk and media centre is at media.rac.co.uk. **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to nearly 14 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. Included in this is the first-of-its-kind nationwide Mobile Mechanics service which brings the garage to homes and workplaces.

At the forefront of new solutions for business fleets and consumers, the RAC’s breakdown service is electric-ready with mobile EV charging technology and can be called on using [myRAC](#) – the all-in-one route planner, fuel finder and breakdown reporting app.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

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