

16 February 2005

### **CONGESTION CHARGING 2 YEARS ON - THE RETAIL RESPONSE**

If you are writing on the Congestion Charge for tomorrow, please consider the following comment from the London Retail Consortium:

Alastair McKay, Chairman of the London Retail Consortium said:

"The LRC is concerned about congestion in London and recognises that there are many benefits from reducing current levels and in promoting a cleaner, greener environment in the Capital. However, we believe there is clearly a need for further independent and authoritative research into the true impact the charge is having on retailers large and small within the congestion charging zone.

"Congestion charging exacerbates the problems that already exist in delivering to and servicing shops. This serves only to burden retailers with additional operational costs and at a time when the trading environment is already tough and uncertain for many.

"We oppose any price increase or extension to the congestion charge zone without a longer trial period to develop a clearer picture of the effect the charge is having on the Capital - any move to expand a scheme with unknown consequences is premature at best."