

Appendix 1

Details of Correspondence Requesting Sunset Periods, Exemptions and Fee Waivers

Stop Gap Sunset Period

The request for this sunset period came about through verbal discussions with:

- Retrofitters, to assess the impact/potential impact of Covid and Brexit on lead times
- Coach operators to discuss the impact of either not being able to meet the difference between the funding amount and the cost of retrofit in time for CAZ Go Live, or the time to takes to find a suitable vehicle, and the timing of having a coach off the road to be retrofitted / having to schedule the retrofit to avoid their busiest times.

Emergency and Scheduled Rail Replacement Services Exemptions

The request for both the emergency rail and bus/coach replacement services and the scheduled rail replacement services came from verbal discussions with rail service providers, as summarised in the email below:

"As explained during our meeting, if we are operating buses from Havant and Fareham into Portsmouth then it's not too much of an issue as we will be using buses primarily from local operators. However, speaking to our bus contractor, when we operate buses from further afield such as Haslemere, Guildford and Southampton, these are generally operators from further afield and coaches, many of which are not Euro 6 or anywhere near. The major concern we have now is that we may not be able to cover the services required as the surcharge for non-compliant vehicles is not acceptable. The margins on Rail Replacement work are very small and with many coach diagrams finishing post midnight, a £100 charge makes the work unviable. Whilst accepting the reasons for imposing the CAZ, the Council must realise the coach industry is on its knees having had no financial support from the government throughout COVID and still expected to invest thousands of pounds on unaffordable PSVAR compliant coaches.

From talking to various friends who are operators of non-compliant vehicles, they are likely to shy away from using Portsmouth as a stop over for Isle of Wight trips as well as trips to the city itself not to mention replacement bus services.

My personal view is that this policy needs to be put back a year and let the coach industry recover."

Statutory Refuse Collection Vehicles:

This was suggested following internal conversations with the PCC Waste Disposal Team, who highlighted that these vehicles were due to be replaced by October 2023. Upgrade was expected sooner but is delayed pending the Environment Bill, which may influence vehicle upgrade choice.

Horse Transporters:

A number of different pieces of correspondence, listed below.

Received on 6th April 2021

"Please could you confirm as to whether 7.5 ton lorries traveling from the Isle of Wight which are not being used for commercial purposes will be charged for travelling through the new Clean Air Zone, as they are not classed officially as HGV.

We travel horses for competitions/training and vet visits via this route often having to stay away over night (meaning two charges) and are concerned that as well as the cost, traveling via one of the other routes could be a welfare issue especially during hot weather, as it would mean longer journeys, and more time keeping animal in ..

Traveling from the Wightlink terminal means that there is no alternative route for Isle of Wight traffic and once again we are being penalised, we obviously understand the need to provide Clean Air Schemes, but wonder why Portsmouth Council haven't adopted other schemes which would benefit a larger area, and be more inclusive, whilst only covering a 3.2 Km² area looking at the map provided the largest contributors of CO₂ seem to be outside/bypassed by this scheme."

Followed by a further email later that day.

"Further to our recent emails, I am contacting you to highlight a few of the points which will affect horse box owners traveling from the Isle of Wight through the new "Clean Air Zone"

We travel to the mainland from the Island approx. once a month for competitions/training vets etc. in our privately owned lorry which unfortunately will not meet with the required standards set out in the plan. Traveling via WightLink terminal to Portsmouth means that we are unable to avoid the zone. but often travel this way as it is a more direct route to the venues we use. (The Isle of Wight has excellent Equine Vets but unfortunately not the facilities to treat them so a large number are referred to the equine Hospital at Liphook) if they have to stay over night this would mean a £100 fee. Competitions are also often more than 1 day trips.

As an animal welfare issue you will appreciate that having a large animal confined in a lorry for longer than necessary is something that we wish to avoid, particularly in hot weather. Wight Link is a shorter journey time and also allow horse boxes to travel at any time to receive a discount although it still costs over £100. If we are to travel via Southampton we have a longer crossing, have to travel before 8am return after 6 or pay high prices and then travel back through the city and along M27 to our destination, hardly carbon friendly !!! and a long day for the horses standing inside.

I understand that with the Clean Air Zone in Bath horse boxes pay a reduced rate of £10 and would be interested to see if this would be possible with Portsmouth. We all appreciate the need to reduce emissions and would obviously avoid driving through these areas if we could but with the terminal being inside the zone we are left without an option. or a much longer time consuming and for the animals stressful journeys

I know that there are a lot of other people in the same position, who use this route with their horses for the same reasons, and I look forward to your reply."

Received on 9th April 2021

"I live on the Isle of Wight and when not in lock down regularly travel through Portsmouth via Wightlink Ferries to compete with Horses (as do many other people on the Isle of Wight). We currently already have to pay a ferry fare to cross the water and I strongly feel that now having to pay another £50 per day just to travel from the port to our destination is going to make our Hobby unaffordable, bearing in mind that if we are staying away for a few days it will cost us another £50 to return home.

I notice online that Bath have introduced a LEZ but have offered concessions for horseboxes at £10 per day, is this something that could be offered to Isle of Wight residents, as this charge on top of the ferry fare is going to cripple a lot of us, which in turn will also effect the ferry company."

Received on 12th April 2021

"I have just heard of the impending emission charges coming into force in the Autumn of this year, 2021. This is going to have a devastating effect on the Island Equestrian Community.

I am a resident on the Isle of Wight and travel to the mainland to compete with my two ponies and carriage.

To enable me to do this I have to drive a 7.5 ton horse box so I have room for my ponies, carriage, water, living accommodation which enable me to stay within the correct payload.

I would be very grateful if I and other residents with large horse boxes can please be given a waiver on travelling through Portsmouth to reach the M27.

If you are unable to do this, I and others will have to stop travelling as we are often away for two days or more and this would mean the cost of ferry and council charge would be prohibitive.

Travelling via Southampton or Yarmouth will increase the travelling time by one to one and a half hours which would then become a welfare issue.

Please can you give the Equestrian community on the Isle of Wight driving horse boxes a waiver."

Received on 19th April

Enquiry to Help desk

"[Customer] owns a large horse lorry and wanted to check if he would have to pay the CAZ charge. I didn't think he did as it is not used for business purposes but just wanted to double check I was correct."

Received on 21st April

"I had heard in the news about the new clean air zone in Portsmouth but have to confess i did not take part in the consultation process last year as I did not believe it had a direct effect on horse owners here on the Isle of Wight. However it has been brought to my attention this week that Horseboxes over 3.5 tonnes are classed as HGV's and will therefore be included in the new CAZ payment of £50.

My concern over this is that there are no equine hospitals here on the Isle of Wight despite a large equine population. This means that any horse requiring hospitalisation or surgery in a life threatening situation must first travel to the mainland. The nearest Equine hospital geographically is based in Liphook, Hampshire so logically the best ferry link to use is Fishbourne-Portsmouth hence incurring a CAZ charge. I am concerned that to avoid the charge people may use the Cowes-Southampton route thereby increasing the overall journey time by 35 - 45 minutes which could be crucial to a successful outcome. Many insurance companies do not cover transport to a referral centre so these costs must be met by the owner even if all veterinary fees are paid by the insurance company.

My client informed me that in the clean air zone in Bath there is an exemption for horseboxes where a reduced fee is payable. Do you think it would be possible to try and gain such an exemption for Portsmouth? Is it Portsmouth CC that could grant this or The Dept of Transport? Please could you advise me as to the best way to contact someone regarding this issue to see if a discussion could be opened regarding a possible exemption. If necessary I would be happy to co-ordinate a response from all interested parties here on the island but would like to know the best way to tackle the situation."

Received on 26th May 2021

"Hello,

I own a 7.5 ton Horsebox and am wondering if it will be exempt from the charges? I live on the Isle of Wight and travel a handful of times via Portsmouth to shows and training events. Could you please advise on the situation?"

Received 8th June 2021

"I am writing to you regarding the Portsmouth Clean Air Zone, specifically with regards to horse transporters.

I am aware of Islanders who have raised concerns regarding the charging for such vehicles and am keen for an exemption to be made for these. Many journeys, such as those to competitions or training, necessitate an overnight stay which adds a considerable sum to the cost of travel. A number of Islanders travel on a regular basis, approximately once a month, and their journeys cannot avoid the CAZ if crossing the Solent using the Fishbourne to Portsmouth ferry crossing.

The Isle of Wight does not have all the veterinary facilities required for horse treatment and, as such, unavoidable journeys through Portsmouth need to be made. It is not ideal for horses to be experiencing longer journey times in order to avoid the CAZ. I am also concerned that if owners use alternative ferry routes, this will add more time and mileage to existing journeys, leading to an increase in pollution in other areas, thus being counterproductive.

I am keen to work with Portsmouth City Council and look forward to a solution being found in order to support equestrianism on the Isle of Wight.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Seely MP Member of Parliament, Isle of Wight"