

59010 Diesel Surcharge

In section 4 of the parking action plan, it states:

4.1 The primary measure of success will be the reduction in the number of diesel vehicles being used by permit holders in Edinburgh.

Can you confirm this is the case?

In 2023, diesel vehicles accounted for 3.8% of new residential parking permit purchases and 6.5% of total permits. In 2025 (as of the date of this request), these figures have decreased to 2.4% and 5.9%, respectively.

It should be noted that a three-year grace period applies to diesel vehicle owners who held a permit when the surcharge was introduced and have continued to renew it since. With the grace period due to end in 2026, it is likely that diesel vehicle use will further decrease.

4.2 In addition, it is expected that this measure will help contribute toward improving local air quality and reducing pollution within the city centre.

Can you confirm this has occurred?

As diesel vehicles generally have the greatest impact on air quality, and the diesel surcharge has reduced the number of diesel vehicles in Edinburgh, it is expected to have contributed to improving air quality.

Air quality in Edinburgh has generally improved in recent years; however, data from 2024 and 2025 has not yet been reported (please note that [Air Quality Annual Progress Reports](#) are retrospective), meaning that the impact of the diesel surcharge has not been fully observed. Although the data will become available, it will not be possible to determine the extent to which air quality improvements have been influenced by the diesel surcharge alone, in view that other air quality initiatives and transport schemes, such as the Low Emission Zone, have operated simultaneously.