Pressure builds on Mercedes-Benz over £10billion diesel emissions scandal – drivers could claim £10,000 each in compensation

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Pressure is building on Mercedes over a diesel emissions scandal that could cost it billions, as thousands of British drivers join a legal claim against the automotive firm.

Law firm PGMBM filed a group litigation claim in the Liverpool High Court against Daimler AG, the parent company of Mercedes-Benz UK, over a **diesel emissions scandal** that could be worth up to £10billion.

Mercedes-Benz has allegedly misled customers, the public and authorities concerning the amount of toxic emissions produced by certain models of their diesel cars and vans produced between 2007 and 2018, the legal papers filed with the Liverpool High Court in May state.

The case is now adding thousands of claimants per week, as revelations of the scandal become public.

The German company is suspected of installing 'defeat devices' in hundreds of thousands of vehicles, allowing vehicles to pass emissions testing. The claim filed by PGMBM alleges that Mercedes committed a fraud by manufacturing cars and vans whose real world diesel emissions exceed the limits imposed by EU and UK laws by up to 10 times.

A defeat device detects when the engine is being tested and limits the amount of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions produced to comply with regulatory standards, which would not be in effect in the course of normal road use by vehicle drivers. Nitrogen oxide is a significant factor in air pollution and respiratory conditions, particularly in young and vulnerable people.

In July 2017, Daimler instituted a voluntary recall of 3 million of its diesel vehicles manufactured to Euro 5 and Euro 6 emissions standards. Then in 2018, Germany's motor authority Kraftfahrt-Bundesamt found that some 280,000 Mercedes-Benz vehicles had been outfitted with illegal defeat devices. This led to a wider recall of 670,000 affected vehicles across Europe. As part of a settlement with German prosecutors over its diesel emissions scandal, Daimler AG was fined €870 million in 2019.

There are currently tens of thousands of cases involving Mercedes-Benz's actions pending in courts around the world, including claims for damages and the right to return the vehicle without any financial losses by the owner. Damages awarded have typically been over £10,000 per vehicle.

PGMBM estimate that up to half a million vehicles in the UK could be affected, with an average of two owners each. This means that the case may impact one million consumers and, based on potential damages of £10,000 in each case, Mercedes-Benz may face £10billion in compensation claims if they are found liable.

PGMBM have urged consumers in the UK to come forward and join the class action claim if they purchased, financed or leased a Mercedes diesel car or van, manufactured between 2007 and 2018, to join the claim on a *no win, no fee* basis, which they can do via a simple online form at mercedesclaimlawyers.com. By joining the action, claimants have the greatest chance of ensuring compensation and achieving justice.

"This case highlights how Mercedes has abused the trust of its customers by egregiously misleading them in the pursuit of profit," said PGMBM Managing Partner Tom Goodhead.

"We believe that Mercedes must be held to account for its unlawful and deceitful actions, and this case will give consumers the opportunity to do so, and be compensated for being misled by a supposedly trustworthy company."

This is not the first time that the world has seen car makers deceive consumers and cause enormous environmental damage. Recently, UK courts ruled against Volkswagen for cheating the emissions testing

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regime. PGMBM successfully litigated in this case, establishing liability in favour of an around 91,000 claimants.

Higher emissions of NO_x pollutants can cause an increase in fuel and maintenance costs, as well as impairing vehicle performance. Moreover, toxic **diesel emissions** are extremely harmful to people, especially children. The Royal College of Physicians claim that illegal levels of air pollution result in over 40,000 early deaths per year.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

To make a claim or for more information regarding the Mercedes Diesel Fraud class-action, visit: mercedesclaimlawyers.com.

About PGMBM

PGMBM, formerly known as SPG Law, is a unique partnership between British, Brazilian and American lawyers, passionate about championing justice for the victims of wrongdoing by big corporations, with offices in Liverpool, London, the US and Brazil.

The firm has a particular expertise in environmental pollution claims originating in Brazil, handling claims arising from the collapse of the Fundão Dam, the largest environmental disaster in the history of Brazil, as well as several other significant disasters. PGMBM is also at the cutting-edge of UK consumer claims, representing thousands of affected consumers throughout the UK and the world. These claims are against Volkswagen, British Airways, Bayer, AG, and other major multi-national corporations.

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