



Department
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

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23 September 2020

Dear Navin,

Thank you for your letter of 3 September regarding the London Assembly's objection to temporary suspension of free travel for under 18s in London.

The £1.6 billion Extraordinary Funding and Financing Agreement agreed by Government and the Mayor of London to enable Transport for London (TfL) to continue operating services contained a series of conditions, which were agreed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Transport, to facilitate safe travel on public transport in London.


Before the Covid-19 crisis, around a third of journeys in the morning peak period were made by young people travelling to school and many of these were short and potentially walkable journeys. The temporary suspension of free bus and tram travel for under 18s will help to reduce demand for public transport so that those who need to use it can do so safely.

The Department is engaging closely with TfL, the Department for Education, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and London Councils on how the temporary suspension can be operationalised, whilst ensuring that any child eligible for free home to school travel under the Education Act 1996 will still receive this. The Department is also completing an Equality Impact Assessment, which will help consider categories of children that should continue to receive free transport.

As part of the Extraordinary Funding and Financing Agreement, TfL is pushing forward an ambitious active travel plan to promote cycling and walking, including new segregated cycle lanes, closures of roads to through traffic and pavement extensions.

These measures will enable short journeys, such as home to school travel, to be made safely via active travel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT