

Valerie Shawcross AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London, SE1 2AA

Date: 21 October 2010

Dear Mayor

Recent disruption on the Tube

I am writing, on behalf of the Transport Committee, about the recent incidents of disruption on the Tube network. The Committee would welcome an explanation for why each incident occurred and details of the action being taken to prevent further disruption and ensure the highest standards of safety on the Tube.

The recent incidents which have been reported and on which we would like further information include:

- Thursday 21 October – Jubilee line suspended during the morning peak period due to a cracked rail and severe delays on the Piccadilly line due to signal failure.
- Tuesday 19 October – delays on the Victoria line during the peak period due to a defective train which resulted in passengers having to get off the train and walk along the tracks through tunnels. In addition, there was signal failure on the Circle line, disruption on the District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines and part suspension of the Northern line due to a reported track problem.
- Monday 18 October - Jubilee line suspended because of power interruption due to damaged tunnel telephone cables which resulted in passengers having to get off the train and walk along the tracks through tunnels. Also delays on the Central line due to a signal failure at Bethnal Green, delays on the Metropolitan line due to trains being taken out of service for maintenance, and suspension of the Northern line between Morden and Kennington due to a faulty train at Clapham North.
- Thursday 7 October – Part suspension and reduced service on the District Line after 23 trains were taken out of service because inspections revealed small cracks on the undersides of some trains.

The nature and increasing frequency of these incidents has prompted questions about TfL's safety and maintenance programme for the Tube network. In addition to providing an explanation for why each incident occurred and what action is now being taken, please can you provide details of the safety and maintenance programme now in place for each London Underground line and any changes to these programmes since TfL assumed control for upgrading and maintaining the entire Tube network at the end of June 2010.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Shawcross AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

Cc: Peter Hendy, Commissioner, TfL