

# LONDON ASSEMBLY

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

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

Stephen Locke  
Chair  
London TravelWatch  
169 Union Street  
London SE1 0LL

**13 January 2017**

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your letter of 9 January 2017.

With regard to the increase in the rent at Union Street I understand that LFEPA is passing on the rent increase that has been imposed on them by their landlord and that all the organisations occupying space in Union Street on similar terms to TravelWatch are facing the same level of increase. I know that your officers and officers from the Secretariat have met with LFEPA to discuss the situation and that LFEPA have been flexible in not passing on the rent increase in the short term whilst options are investigated. However this is not a sustainable position as this would in effect be LFEPA subsidising London TravelWatch, which is just not appropriate.

As both the Deputy Chair, Keith Prince and I made clear when we met with you to discuss your 2017/18 business plan, in the current financial climate the London Assembly would not be in a position to allocate additional funding for London TravelWatch in 2017/18. The current situation makes it all the more disappointing that TravelWatch chose not to pursue the option of occupying space at City Hall when the offer was there a few years ago which would have avoided the current situation TravelWatch finds itself in.

If the new levels of rent are going to pose the level of challenge you refer to in your letter then in order to mitigate the impact I would strongly urge you to look urgently at possible alternative office accommodation, with rental costs that are within your current budget. I accept this may not be in central London. I know this may cause disruption and challenges but unless you can identify other savings in your budget, it is likely to be the only way forward and the sooner it is done the better in terms of reducing costs and staying within budget.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**  
**Chair, Transport Committee**