

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Email:**

[Emma.Best@london.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Best@london.gov.uk)

CC: [Nikoleta.Kemp@london.gov.uk](mailto:Nikoleta.Kemp@london.gov.uk)

**Date:** 21 August 2024

Dear Emma,

Thank you for your email and for presenting the petition for route 505 at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 8 February. As Deputy Mayor for Transport, I have been asked to respond on the Mayor's behalf. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor and I are committed to ensuring London's buses provide the connections Londoners need and that the service remains the most affordable, accessible and available mode of transport in London. We are particularly focused on enhancing outer London's network, from the Superloop to smaller route changes in neighbourhoods across the city.

As you are aware, bus route 505 historically operated between Harlow and Chingford and served Waltham Abbey, and was run by Arriva rather than TfL. Arriva withdrew the route in 2015 due to a lack of passenger demand, as operators can in other parts of the country. It was then taken over by a new operator, Trusty Bus, with a reduced service terminating at Waltham Abbey and not running through to Chingford.

In 2017, TfL extended route 215 from Yardley Lane Estate to Lee Valley Campsite year-round, which connects to the southern end of Sewardstone Road, to better serve those in and around the London Borough of Waltham Forest. TfL has, on multiple occasions, investigated the potential to extend the route further north – outside the Greater London boundary – but passenger data shows this route is not in high demand, meaning that an extension of this route or the return of a route like the 505 to Waltham Abbey is unlikely at present. Providing a service between Waltham Abbey and Chingford would require a two-mile extension of the route in both directions and TfL cannot justify that cost at this time. I would suggest you approach Essex County Council, as the transport authority for Waltham Abbey, to discuss further as well.

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I understand the concerns raised by residents and I would like to reassure you and the petitioners that TfL is committed to continually reviewing the bus network to ensure it provides the best overall service to the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Seb Dance". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

**Seb Dance**  
Deputy Mayor for Transport