

MAYOR OF LONDON

Caroline Russell AM

C/o Jasmine.Farquharson@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA130225-0226

Date: 7 May 2025

Dear Caroline,

I am writing to you following the petition you presented to the London Assembly on 13 February.

First, it is neither inevitable nor acceptable that anyone should be killed or seriously injured when travelling in London. Safety is my number one priority.

Progress is being made through the Bus Safety Programme and Transport for London's (TfL) Vision Zero Action Plan to make our streets safer. Of course, there is more to do, which is why both TfL and I remain committed to improving bus safety and supporting London bus drivers. Bus drivers play an essential role in keeping the capital moving, and their welfare is a priority for TfL. TfL published its Bus Safety Strategy, which sets out a number of actions that it is taking to make the network safer. This includes prioritising driver welfare to ensure bus drivers have the facilities and support they need.

Many aspects of the proposed 'Bus Drivers' Bill of Rights' are already covered by existing agreements, actions or legislation.

Relevant legislation includes, but is not limited to, the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1992), Working Time Regulations (1998), Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999), and the Equality Act (2010).

Further regulation is provided by the need for all bus operating companies to hold a valid Public Service Vehicle Operator Licence and to adhere to requirements set by the Traffic Commissioner and administered by the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

TfL's framework agreement sets out further contractual obligations that must be met by the bus operating companies. This includes the need to comply with vehicle specifications that incorporate the latest Bus Safety Standard. TfL undertakes audits to ensure compliance, such as through Engineering Quality Monitoring, which also provides maintenance assurance for heating and cooling systems.

Additionally, all operators have their own policies, procedures and agreements, which have been collectively bargained and cover all aspects relating to their employees at work.

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All bus drivers are required to undertake training as part of their Certificate of Professional Competence and participate in ongoing training to support their development. TfL provides clear guidance to drivers on what is expected of them through the Big Red Book.

TfL encourages any London bus driver who feels his or her rights are being infringed to raise their concerns with their employer, their union, or TfL directly. This can also be done via an anonymous reporting system, The Confidential Incident Reporting & Analysis Service, which is available to all drivers.

Again, I would like to reiterate my and TfL's commitment to supporting bus drivers, their welfare, and driver and customer safety on the network. We continue to work closely with Unite, as the recognised union for bus drivers, to try and resolve concerns around driver safety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London