

LONDON ASSEMBLY



City Hall

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Elly Baker AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Transport
(Sent by email)

13 February 2026

Dear Heidi,

Railways Bill

I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly Transport Committee regarding the treatment of London TravelWatch in the Railways Bill (the Bill).

The Bill (as introduced) treats London TravelWatch and Transport Focus differently. Transport Focus¹, the independent watchdog for transport users in Great Britain, is currently named in the Railways Bill as a statutory consultee on future railway plans and strategies, and on changes likely to impact passengers. Whereas, London TravelWatch², the statutory watchdog for passenger transport in and around London, is not.³

London TravelWatch's remit covers National Rail issues within the London railway area and passenger transport services under the responsibility of Transport for London. Approximately 70 per cent of rail journeys in Great Britain start, end or go through London and London TravelWatch's remit covers around 400, out of a total of 2,500, railway stations.⁴ London TravelWatch provides a

¹ Officially known as the Passengers' Council

² Officially known as the London Transport Users' Committee

³ UK Parliament, [Railways Bill](#)

⁴ UK Parliament, [Railways Bill](#), January 2026

vital service championing the transport needs of Londoners and campaigning for improvements to London's transport system. National rail policies and decisions have significant potential to affect London transport users; it is important that London TravelWatch is consulted on these to ensure the interests of London transport users are properly represented.

London TravelWatch has submitted evidence to the Railways Public Bill Committee proposing an amendment to the Railways Bill to add it to the list of statutory consultees.⁵ I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly Transport Committee to give our support to this proposal. Given the Transport Committee's responsibilities conveyed upon it by the London Assembly in respect of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, I trust you will give due consideration to this discrepancy and support the inclusion of London TravelWatch as a statutory consultee under the Railways Bill.

I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter by 27 March 2026. Please send your responses to Hannah Barlow, Principal Committee Manager and Eleanor Haigh, Senior Policy Adviser at assemblytransport@london.gov.uk.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elly Baker AM'.

Elly Baker AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

⁵ UK Parliament, [Railways Bill](#), January 2026