MAYOR OF LONDON

Tony Devenish AM
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA071218-0131

Date: 22 JAN 2019

Dear Tony,

Thank you for the petition presented to the London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 6 December 2018 about the proposed changes to bus route 19 as part of Transport for London's (TfL) Central London Bus Services Review.

TfL's consultation on the Central London Bus Services Review has now closed. The views expressed in the petition against the proposed changes to route 19 have been echoed by others in the community and noted by TfL. I have been assured that these comments will be considered alongside all other feedback received and that no final decisions will be made until all views have been analysed. Once TfL has completed this analysis, it will publish a report in early 2019 setting out its views on the next steps for any changes to the central London bus network.

London's bus network is crucial to its continued economic and social development and to achieving my Transport Strategy target that 80 per cent of all journeys are made using sustainable transport options by 2041. The changes proposed by TfL are aimed at encouraging more people to use public transport, improving the customer experience (by making the transport network more efficient), making bus services more reliable and less complicated, and ensuring resources are deployed where they are needed most.

At the same time, TfL does not wish to run more buses than necessary and contribute to additional emissions, noise and congestion. TfL also needs to ensure that the very best use if made of the £680m annual bus subsidy and that every mile of its bus service offers value for money. In addition, TfL now receives no operating grant from the Government, amounting to an average £700m per year reduction in funding.

TfL's proposals, including the changes to route 19, have sought to take into account the needs of buggy users, people with disabilities and older people. Many interchanges, which would be required should the proposals go ahead, could be made at the same bus stop. TfL will look carefully at the responses they receive on these matters.

Thank you again for presenting the petition.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London