

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

120 JUN 2012

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Dear Caroline

Transport for the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games

Thank you for your letter of 16 March following the meeting of the Transport Committee on Tuesday 13 March. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I welcome the Committee's recognition of the good progress that has been made on preparing the transport network ahead of the London 2012 Games. Hosting the London 2012 Games will be a huge logistical challenge, but there is a detailed plan and I am confident that we will get everyone to their Games events on time and keep London and the UK moving.

Performance of the Jubilee line

As you note, delays across the Tube network have fallen by around 40 per cent since 2007/08, with the Tube now running more reliably and carrying more people than ever before.

On the Jubilee line, enormous strides have been taken to improve reliability following the completion of works to upgrade the line's signalling system in June 2011. The performance trend is improving and every customer journey is already a minute and a half faster, on average. Indeed, compared with the first five periods of 2011/12, the five subsequent periods saw delays on the Jubilee line cut by nearly 30 per cent, as measured by infrastructure-related lost customer hours. A number of targeted measures are being undertaken on the Jubilee line to improve reliability even further. These include:

- Software improvements to signalling systems and trains to further reinforce the stability and reliability of the line.
- Track maintenance to enable speed restrictions to be safely increased and point replacement at key points between Stratford and North Greenwich to minimise the risk of failure.
- Passenger Emergency Alarm covers, as successfully used on the Victoria line, are being trialled on the Jubilee line to reduce the risk of accidental activations.

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The new timetable introduced on 25 March delivered a second increase in the frequency of trains on the line following its upgrade – a 33 per cent boost to capacity overall, equivalent to providing space for an extra 12,500 passengers per hour, compared to the old signalling system. Thirty trains per hour now operate at the busiest times, compared with a maximum of 24 before the upgrade.

Road congestion during the Games

As was reported during the Committee's meeting, protocols have already been agreed between Transport for London (TfL) and the three emergency services regarding the use of the Olympic Route Network (ORN) and Games Lanes for both emergency response and other time-critical operations. Each of the emergency services has produced guidance notes for their organisations about use of the ORN and Games Lanes.

In addition to the public information that has been produced to date on the ORN, further information will be provided to residents and road users to ensure they are aware of the temporary restrictions that will be in place during the Games. Over 120 signs will be installed on arterial routes in June to advise road users of the ORN. As you know, a proposal has been agreed which will see the Games Lanes operated flexibly, subject to demand and available capacity. 150 variable message signs will be used to advise motorists when the Games Lanes are open to all road users. TfL is continuing to work with London Councils, the Metropolitan Police and the boroughs to ensure that there is a robust and appropriate enforcement strategy in place for the Olympic Route Network.

Although I have responded broadly to the points you have raised, you address a number of detailed issues in your letter and I believe it may therefore be helpful to arrange an opportunity for an informal briefing, with Peter Hendy and Isabel Dedring, for all Assembly Members to give you an opportunity to discuss in greater detail the transport preparations for the Olympics. I have also recently made this offer in correspondence with Val Shawcross. I will ask my office to arrange this briefing at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London