

John Larkinson
Chief Executive



Dr Alison Moore AM
Chair of the Transport Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1A 2AA
(Sent by email)

1 September 2020

Dear Alison,

Response to report on Tram and Bus Safety in London

Thank you for your letter and accompanying report on 30 July 2020 regarding tram and bus safety in London. This letter is ORR's formal response to the London Assembly Transport Committee's report.

As you know, ORR is the independent health and safety regulator for Great Britain's railways, including London's tramway system. Our role is to ensure that the health and safety of everyone associated with the rail and tram industry is protected. We achieve this by:

- encouraging railway and tramway businesses to have excellent health and safety management systems; and
- ensuring that these businesses identify and assess risks properly and control them effectively and that they comply with health and safety legislation.

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 forms the foundation of the current health and safety system in Great Britain. One simple principle underpins the Act: those who create the risk are best placed to control the risk. The Act provides a flexible regulatory system to enable this to happen, allowing regulations that set out goals and general principles to replace the historical detailed specific legislation. Detailed requirements are then placed in general and sector specific guidance.

In accordance with our health and safety guidance strategy for the industry, ORR produces principles, the tramway sector (through the Light Rail Safety & Standards Board (LRSSB)) produces sector wide standards and guidance, and individual tramway companies produce company standards and procedures designed to implement their detailed risk control arrangements.

The Tram and Bus Safety report contains 15 recommendations requiring Transport for London (TfL) to take various actions aimed at making London's transport network safer. Recommendations 2 and 3 require TfL to work with LRSSB and ORR in

discharging those actions. We will support, so far as our regulatory powers allow, TfL's work to improve safety on London's tramway system as we deliver our own regulatory activities in accordance with our health and safety strategy.

We will continue to report the outcome of our health and safety regulatory activities in our Annual Report of Health and Safety Performance on Britain's Railways. Our most recent report, published in July 2020, is available on our website¹.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Larkinson', is positioned above the printed name.

John Larkinson
Chief Executive

¹ See <https://orr.gov.uk/rail/health-and-safety/annual-health-and-safety-report>.