

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA040118-9439

26 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 4 January 2017. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for;

- *Any correspondence between Val Shawcross, CBE, Deputy Mayor, Transport and employees of Transport for London referring to the London TaxiCard Scheme between January 2017 and December 2017.*
- *Any correspondence between Val Shawcross, CBE, Deputy Mayor, Transport and London Councils referring to the London TaxiCard Scheme between January 2017 and December 2017.*
- *Any correspondence between Val Shawcross, CBE, Deputy Mayor, Transport and The Mayor of London referring to the London TaxiCard Scheme between January 2017 and December 2017.*

Please find attached the information we have identified as being within the scope of your request. Please note that the email entitled "Update on TfL business plan" was sent separately to all London Borough Leaders and members of TEC, so I have just included one copy of the email which as you will note makes reference to the taxi card scheme in the final paragraph.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA040118-9439.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Robinson**  
**Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>



Val Shawcross CBE  
Deputy Mayor for Transport

London City Hall  
The Queens Walk  
SE1 2AA

Contact: [redacted]

Direct line: 020 7934 9945

Email: [redacted]@londoncouncils.gov.uk

By e-mail [redacted]@london.gov.uk

Date: 4 December 2017

Dear Val,

**Re: Revisions to the LIP and Taxicard funding allocations for 2017/18-2021/22**

I am writing now that London Councils has received more detailed funding information from TfL about borough LIP funding for the next five years and more information about cuts to Taxicard, which as you are aware, London Councils operates on behalf of the boroughs.

I am very disappointed that London Councils and the boroughs have not been formally engaged to discuss funding reductions to LIP and Taxicard prior to announcing a new settlement, and that when this was published, detailed information was not immediately forthcoming. Boroughs are experienced in dealing with significant cuts to their budgets and would have been willing to engage in those challenging conversations. We are now in the difficult situation where boroughs will be experiencing significant cuts in a number of LIP programmes, without the chance to influence where these cuts, if they are necessary, could have been managed best.

**LIP Funding [Not relevant to request]**

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
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[redacted]  
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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

As you know we are concerned about the impact of budget cuts on vulnerable service users served by the Taxicard scheme. The proposed cut of 13% reduction in 2018/19 and a 1%, 0% and 3% increase in the level of Taxicard funding in subsequent years represent significant real terms cuts to services, taking account of inflationary fares increases. This will have a direct impact on service users, some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in London. It will mean fewer journeys or a lower level of subsidy for disabled people using Taxicard. I also understand that the proposal has not yet been the subject of an equalities impact assessment. Given that all Taxicard users have 'protected characteristics' as defined by the Equalities Act (2010), TfL has a legal duty to undertake an equalities impact assessment in respect of a change in service for such users.

In summary, I am very concerned about the proposed cuts in LIP and Taxicard funding and I would urge you to look again at these. Specifically I ask that you:

- Maintain Corridor funding at its original levels;
- Reduce the severity of cuts to borough assets in 2018/19 and 2019/20;
- Retain the newly-reintroduced Local Transport Funding, which is welcomed;
- Undertake a full Equalities Impact Assessment for Taxicard and reduce the severity of the funding cut for some of Londoners most vulnerable transport users;
- Agree to open book accounting to enable London borough treasurers to satisfy themselves that the cuts undertaken are indeed necessary and are applied fairly across TfL budgets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Bell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Cllr Julian Bell  
Chair of London Councils Transport and Environment Committee

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Councillor Julian Bell**

Chair, Transport & Environment Committee  
London Councils

**Date:** 06 December 2017

By email: [REDACTED]@ealing.gov.uk

**[Majority of letter not  
relevant to request]**

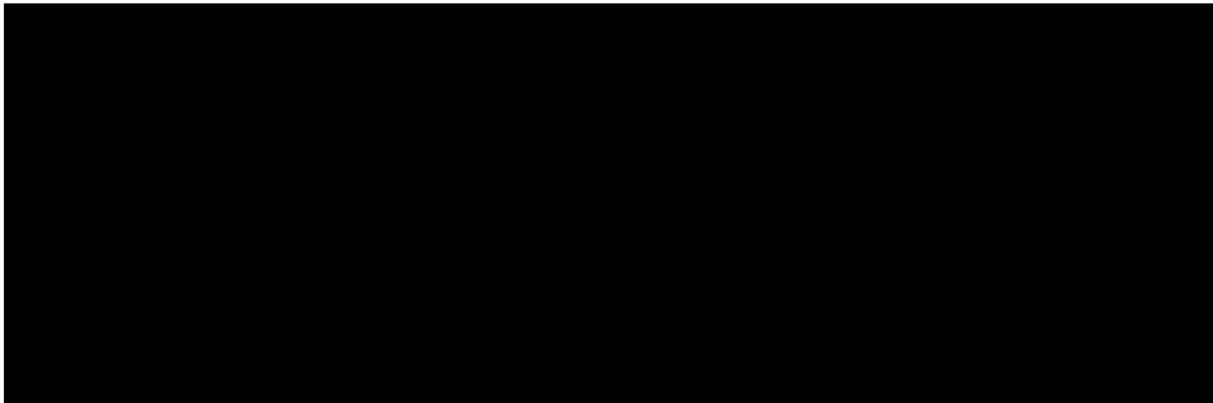
Dear Julian

Thank you for your letter of 4 December concerning LIP and Taxicard funding.

At the outset, I should make it clear that whilst LIP funding is confirmed in the Business Plan (indeed Boroughs will shortly be supplied with the details of their individual settlements), Taxicard funding is not part of this process. Mike Brown has already made clear that further discussions are needed on the Taxicard budget, and we are absolutely committed to ensuring that there is no reduction at all in the service being provided anywhere in London. Mike will be writing separately to John O'Brien to reconfirm this. I have asked to be kept informed of these discussions and would be happy to have a more detailed conversation with you about this once TfL's budgeting process is further advanced.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



I am very open to have further discussions around how we manage these funds and future Business Plan rounds.

Yours sincerely,

**Valerie Shawcross CBE**  
Deputy Mayor for Transport



Val Shawcross CBE  
Deputy Mayor for Transport

London City Hall  
The Queens Walk  
SE1 2AA

Contact: [REDACTED]

Direct line: 020 7934 9945

Email: [REDACTED]@londoncouncils.gov.uk

By e-mail [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk

Date: 13 December 2017

Dear Val

Thank you for your reply of 6 December to my letter to you regarding cuts to LIP and Taxicard funding.

First I wanted to say that I am grateful for your confirmation that you are committed to ensuring that there are no reductions in Taxicard services. In his recent letter to John O'Brien I was pleased to see Mike Brown had now also given the same commitment. With the new financial year fast approaching, we do need a firm, detailed budget commitment for Taxicard, so London Councils and individual boroughs can complete their budget planning processes and ensure arrangements are in place with contractors and staff for next year. I know London Councils officers are standing ready to discuss this with TfL colleagues.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REMAINDER OF LETTER NOT RELEVANT TO REQUEST]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Julian Bell

Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee

**Paul Robinson**

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**From:** Valerie Shawcross  
**Sent:** 15 December 2017 13:25  
**To:** [REDACTED]@haringey.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** Update on TfL business plan

**[Majority of email not relevant to request - last para refers to taxicard]**

Dear Claire

I am writing ahead of the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) meeting on Monday, to update you on the situation regarding TfL's business plan for next year.

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Finally, I would like to reiterate that we remain fully committed to the Taxicard Scheme and guarantee there will no reduction at all in the service being provided anywhere in London.

Yours sincerely,

Val

**Valerie Shawcross CBE**  
Deputy Mayor for Transport

CC – All London Borough Leaders  
All members of TEC