

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA020221-5255

15 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

## Information requests regarding Kensington High Street

Thank you for your request for information which Assembly Member Devenish at the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 2 February 2021. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*Can we please be sent all correspondence regarding the temporary cycle lane scheme on Kensington High Street/High Street Kensington, from 1 May 2020 to present, between yourself (from the London Assembly and Westminster Council) and/or your officers (at both) and:*

1. *Cllr Johnny Thalassites, Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, Cllr Cem Kemahli, and/or RBKC council officers.*
2. *Felicity Buchan MP and/or her office staff.*
3. *The Kensington Business Forum and/or their representatives, including, but not restricted to, Tom Frost.*
4. *Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Trade and Commerce and/or their representatives including, but not restricted to, Michael Stone.*
5. *Lord Rothermere and/or his office staff.*
6. *Shaun Bailey, London Assembly member and Mayoral candidate and/or his office staff at either office.*
7. *The Kensington Society and/or their representatives including, but not restricted to, Amanda Frame and Nick Ross.*
8. *Georges Assi.*
9. *E.S.S.A. the Edwardes Square Scarsdale Abingdon Association and/or its representatives including, but not restricted to, trustees.*

Please find attached the information we hold within the scope of your request

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA020221-5255.

Yours sincerely

**[REDACTED]**

**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>

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 November 2020 18:26  
To: [REDACTED] [@parliament.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.uk)  
Subject: Draft Statement - Felicity and Tony's Joint Statement on the Cyclelane

Dear [REDACTED]

See attached input as requested by Tony.

Any problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
RSO to Tony Devenish AM  
GLA Assembly Member for West Central  
(LB Hammersmith & Fulham, RB Kensington & Chelsea and City of Westminster)  
City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA

 Twitter: [@Tony\\_Devenish](https://twitter.com/Tony_Devenish)

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Felicity Buchan MP  
Member of Parliament for Kensington



House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Tony Devenish AM

Assembly Member for West Central

LB Hammersmith & Fulham, RB Kensington & Chelsea  
& City of Westminster

Greater London Authority

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23rd November 2020

## STATEMENT ON THE KENSINGTON HIGH STREET CYCLE LANE

As the Member of Parliament for Kensington, and the Member of the London Assembly for West Central, we want to start by making clear that cycling is an excellent way to travel, and we have both always been strongly in favour of encouraging active travel, especially now in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. Cycling is a great way for people to get around, with physical and mental health benefits, the potential to reduce vehicle congestion in Kensington, and provides a valuable socially-distanced alternative to public transport.

This is why ~~we went into~~ did not oppose the process of installing the temporary lane and approached it with a positive mindset, hoping that this scheme would be a success, and actively encouraging Residents' Associations and those with misgivings to have an open mind. We made clear that the eyelelanecycle lane needed a fair period of operation to prove itself, and it was only if it was clear that the temporary eyelelanecycle lane had failed in its objectives, that we would advocate for its removal.

Now that Phase 1 of the eyelelanecycle lane is in place and has had a fair chance to operate, it is apparent to anyone most people who uses the High Street to travel, whether on a bike or other form of transport, that Kensington High Street is not an appropriate location for a cycle lane, either for cyclists or all other road users.

We have both had a vast amount of correspondence from concerned constituents, with the Parliamentary inbox receiving 161 emails against, and only 796% of comments against and only 4% in favour. The resident's associations: VRARA; KSRA; ESSA; ECSRA; KCRA; Melbury Court; and Kensington Residents Group, also now openly oppose the cycle lane. The Kensington Society has urged the Council to remove the cycle lane as soon as possible; and the Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce opposes the cycle lane, stating that it does not benefit Kensington and Chelsea businesses in its current form. No residents' associations explicitly support the eyelelanecycle lane, though some have remained neutral. A petition against the scheme has now attracted over 3000 signatures, two thirds of these from Londoners. A recent Survey by the Kensington Business Forum showed that a vast majority of the local businesses are against the Scheme. Finally, a survey conducted by Tony Devenish, found 80% of RBKC residents opposed the cycle lane.

Parliamentary Office: 0207 219 6732  
Email: [felicity.buchan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:felicity.buchan.mp@parliament.uk) Website: [www.felicitybuchan.com](http://www.felicitybuchan.com)

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TfL has always placed RBKC under immense pressure to implement a cycleway scheme, and have threatened to take over Borough roads. It is now clear that ~~the~~ TfL severely miscalculated the impact of such schemes, which require careful analysis.

We do want to see alternatives proposed, and we would fully encourage RBKC to explore expanding their highly successful Quietways scheme. We also support good implementation of soft segregation, ~~eyeletanes~~ ~~cycle lanes~~ through road markings and not through physical barriers where it is appropriate. Alternatives must be safe, fair, and balanced for all road users, including the elderly, children, and disabled.

We would like to see the ~~eyeletane~~ ~~cycle lane~~ remain until the end of the current lockdown on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, ~~due to the enhanced need for socially distanced, outdoor travel during a national lockdown~~. However, we believe that this scheme needs to be removed swiftly as soon as when we exit lockdown, to allow businesses along the High Street a period of unimpeded business, in the run-up to Christmas, and- following the very real difficulties they have faced during the coronavirus restrictions. Kensington High Street is simply not the correct location, and we must act in the interests of our constituents.

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**Felicity Buchan MP**  
Member of Parliament for Kensington

**Tony Devenish**  
Member of the London Assembly for West Central