

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA221020-7962

5 November 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 21 October 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

You asked for:

I have some concern around the proposal to remove or curtail the availability of 11-15-year-old zip cards to children in London.

My concern revolves around children from deprived areas and households relying on such cards to travel some distance to attend schools that would otherwise not be feasible/accessible for them to attend.

Please can you share:

- a) how much of TfL's budget is currently allocated to 11-15 zip cards*
- b) what contingency policy is in place for children reliant on 11-15 zip cards to attend school?*

Our response to your request is as follows:

In mid-May, the Government announced a £1.6 billion emergency funding package for Transport for London (TfL). This was necessary because COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on TfL's finances, as fares income fell by 90 per cent during the first wave of the pandemic. Ridership is still much lower than usual so there simply has not been enough money coming in to pay for transport services. As part of this package, the Government insisted that free travel should be suspended for under 18s. The Mayor shared your concerns about these proposals and had repeatedly spoken against this requirement.

You may now be aware that on 31 October 2020, Government agreed a second emergency funding package for TfL to 31 March 2021. It replaces the agreement signed in May. Thanks to the efforts of the Mayor and campaigners, that deal no longer requires TfL to suspend free travel for under 18s. Ministers have made clear that in return for dropping the requirement to cut this concession, they expect London to cover the cost of these concessions. The Mayor has reluctantly accepted that he may need to ask all Londoners to pay a bit more to help some of

the poorest families and we are now exploring ways to raise the additional income for TfL that is needed, so we can protect these vital concessions.

The GLA does not hold the information within scope of your request. Transport for London (TfL) is the Mayor's transport authority and is responsible for implementing the Mayor's Transport Strategy, and for the day-to-day operational running of transport services. You may wish to send a further request to TfL at foi@tfl.gov.uk.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely


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>