

Transport for London



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Sent by email: David.Pealing@london.gov.uk

23 January 2019

Dear David

Transport Committee Meeting 9 January 2019 – Summons

I write in reply to Caroline Pidgeon's letter to me of 9 January 2019 in which she asked me to send you the documents referred to in her letter. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Transport and Deputy Chair of TfL, Heidi Alexander, and the Mayor's Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, received a letter in similar terms and enclosures are also sent on their behalf.

The letter requested that we provide the Committee with 'copies of any emails, correspondence and draft versions in any state of preparation of briefings or documents submitted to TfL from Crossrail Ltd in 2018 that were prepared with the intention of informing final version of the weekly update for submission to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Transport or the Mayor's Chief of Staff'.

In your email of 15 January you clarified that the Committee had asked for the information they requested to be provided in tranches, starting with June, July, August and September 2018.

I have enclosed copies of the information requested, relating to the Weekly Updates produced in June and July 2018. Further information relating to the Weekly Updates produced in August and September 2018 will follow later this week and information relating to February-May and October-December 2018 will be provided next week. The first Weekly Updates were produced in February 2018 so there is no relevant information held for January 2018.

We began providing these notes to the Mayor's Office each week at the Mayor's request, following a meeting he had with the senior leadership of Bombardier on 20 February 2018. At that meeting, the Mayor and the Chairman of Bombardier requested they jointly receive a weekly update on the delivery of the new Elizabeth line trains. I then agreed also to provide the Mayor with a broader weekly update on all progress with the Crossrail project to which the regular Bombardier update was appended.

Much of the content for that project update was sourced from Crossrail Ltd, but content was also provided by the Elizabeth line team within TfL as well as from the Joint Sponsor Team. You will see from the information we have enclosed that each week there was significant work within TfL to prepare and finalise the note that we provided to the Mayor's Office. As with all briefings we send to the Mayor, each note was reviewed to improve the clarity of the language, remove unnecessary project terms and jargon, and challenge information we were given that was not consistent with updates we had received through other channels. This is explained in the correspondence and comments that accompany the draft versions of the notes.

The request covers a large volume of material which is not straightforward to collate. For each month, we are providing the material in a searchable pdf file, in a way which preserves the link between a version of the Weekly Update and the email to which it was originally attached, with a view to ensuring visibility of the email chain that it formed part of and enabling an understanding of how each Update was prepared. If it would be helpful, however, my staff could discuss with you whether there are other preferred means of providing the information to the Committee.

The material provided includes some information which is not appropriate for publication, in particular where the material is commercially sensitive to a number of parties, disclosure of which will have an adverse impact on working relationships and the delivery of the Crossrail project.

If the Committee feels any of the material that is not suitable for publication needs to be debated, then it would be appropriate to do so in a Part II session in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

We will shortly be publishing the material enclosed with this letter on the TfL website, with appropriate redactions, and I will arrange for you to be sent a link to that material as soon as it is available online. As described above, there is some information provided which is not appropriate for publication or public debate and the material we will publish will reflect the extent to which we consider publication is appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Mike Brown MVO

cc: Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London and Chair of Transport for London
Caroline Pidgeon MBE, Chair of the Transport Committee