

MAYOR OF LONDON

Leonie Cooper AM

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA110219-5389**Date:** 25 MAR 2019

Thank you for the petition presented at the London Assembly Plenary meeting on 7 February about moving the bus stop outside St Anselm's school on Tooting Bec Road. I have enclosed a copy of the response to the petitioners, which was posted on the Change.org website on 22 February 2019.

Air pollution is a national health crisis and I will not stand back as millions of Londoners breathe in air so filthy that it shortens their life expectancy, harms their lungs and worsens chronic illness.

I am pleased that the community's application to my Greener City Fund has been successful. A grant of £10,000 towards the installation of a green screen between the bus stop and the school playground has been awarded, which will help reduce children's exposure to pollution.

Thank you for your constituency's engagement on this issue. I hope this letter provides some reassurance about my determination to help improve air quality at St Anselm's Primary School and across the whole of London.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

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Wandsworth Council: Move the bus stop outside St Anselm's school on Tooting Bec Road

Dear Petitioner

Thank you for the petition submitted on the change.org website about moving the bus stop outside St Anselm's Primary School on Tooting Bec Road.

The Mayor recognises that air quality is the most pressing environmental threat to the health of Londoners and has made it a key priority.

We estimate thousands of Londoners die prematurely each year because of toxic air pollution, and it is stunting the growth of children's lungs, is a cause of cancer and increases the risk of asthma, stroke and dementia. Research demonstrates that these health effects disproportionately impact the most deprived communities.

The impact on London's children is severe, with over 400 schools in London located in areas with illegal levels of pollution and one in ten Londoners under the age of 18 with asthma. We estimate that a London child born in 2010 (exposed to the same level of pollution over the course of his or her life) would lose around two years of life expectancy due to pollution. This is unacceptable, which is why the amount of money committed to tackling the capital's air quality crisis has significantly increased. Transport for London's (TfL) Business Plan, for example, includes roughly £750 million to deliver far-reaching programmes to address the threat to health from poor air. Some actions include:

- Introducing an emissions surcharge (dubbed the T-Charge) on top of the Congestion Charge, which is removing older polluting vehicles from central London;
- Introducing the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in April this year and extending its boundaries to the North and South Circulars for all vehicles in 2021 and London-wide for lorries, coaches and buses in 2020;
- Transforming London's bus fleet by phasing out pure diesel buses and a commitment to purchase only hybrid or zero-emission double decker buses from 2018, with the entire fleet becoming 'zero emission' by 2037;
- No longer licensing new diesel taxis from 2018 and supporting the trade to upgrade to much cleaner 'zero emission capable' vehicles;

- Introducing Five Low Emission Neighbourhoods, spanning eight boroughs and involving a range of local businesses. In addition to continuing the Mayor's Air Quality Fund, these targeted actions will tackle some of the worst pollution hotspots across London, with TfL contributing £14 million; and
- A £48 million combined scrappage scheme to help smaller business owners, charities and low-income Londoners scrap older, more polluting vans and cars and switch to cleaner vehicles.

The Mayor also launched a pilot programme for 50 primary schools in the worst polluted areas in London to receive 'air quality audits', which identified hard-hitting measures to protect pupils' health from toxic air. Funding of £1 million was also made available to help the worst affected schools implement changes.

TfL has reviewed the possibility of moving the bus stop outside St Anselm's School to another location. However, the stop forms part of the key interchange for Tooting Bec station and unfortunately there are no other suitable locations nearby which would provide the same level of benefits for public transport users, particularly those with accessibility needs. Moving the bus stop may only move any air pollution associated with a bus stop to another location and impact on others.

Despite not being able to move the bus stop, routes 249 and 319 serving the bus stop in question both met the cleanest Euro VI standards for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter since early 2017, which is already significantly cutting emissions and helping us towards increasingly healthy streets. Additionally, as mentioned above the Mayor has and will continue to clean up the bus fleet and encourage other road users to move to cleaner vehicles.

As you know, St Anselm's Primary School's application to the Mayor's Greener City Fund has been successful. We are pleased to have awarded you a grant of £10,000 towards the installation of a green screen between the bus stop and the school playground, which will help reduce children's exposure to pollution.

I hope this letter provides some reassurance about the Mayor's determination to help improve air quality at St Anselm's Primary School and across the whole of London.

Yours sincerely

Public Liaison Officer
Greater London Authority