



Elly Baker AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

(Sent by email)

25 March 2026

Dear Home Secretary,

Legal protections for transport workers

The London Assembly Transport Committee examines all aspects of the capital's transport system to press for improvements for Londoners. This includes looking out for customers, but so too the thousands of bus, train, taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) drivers, ticket staff, and others who ensure the smooth running of the transport network.

The latest figures from TfL highlight that there were around 200 reported incidents of work-related violence and aggression towards transport workers in London every week across 2023/24.¹ In our February meeting, we therefore turned our attention to work-related violence and aggression towards transport workers in London.

At this meeting, we heard firsthand accounts from transport workers in London about their, and their colleagues', experiences of violence and antisocial behaviour, and its impact on staff. Workers described to us the frequency and severity of abuse they face while carrying out their duties, including examples of verbal abuse, hate crime, physical abuse and spitting.² It was also particularly concerning to hear that such behaviour is often viewed as an expected part of the job.³

¹ TfL, [New TfL campaign launches to tackle violence against staff on London's transport network](#), 19 August 2024

² London Assembly Transport Committee, [Assaults on Transport Workers in London – Panel 1](#), 24 February, p.1

³ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Assaults on Transport Workers in London – Panel 1](#), 24 February, p.3

While transport workers are protected under general legislation – which makes it a statutory offence to behave in a threatening or abusive manner – there is no legislation that specifically protects transport workers. Evidence presented to the Committee suggested a specific offence for assaults on transport workers should be introduced.⁴ Specifically, Siwan Hayward OBE, Director of Security, Policing and Enforcement at TfL, told us: “Currently, there is inconsistent application of penalties. The criminal justice system is not signalling to our colleagues that the abuse that they experience is being taken seriously.”⁵

We are therefore disappointed that an opportunity to provide stronger legal protections to transport workers through the Crime and Policing Bill is being lost. The Government’s decision not to accept amendments at Report Stage in the Lords, which would have expanded the proposed new offence of assaults on retail workers to encompass individuals providing a public service or duty (including transport workers), despite sector-wide support for the amendments, is disappointing.

Recommendation: The Government should work with transport unions, TfL (and other transport authorities), and representative transport bodies to bring forward legislation to create a new offence of assaults on transport workers.

The Committee would welcome a response to this letter by 13 May 2026. Please send your responses to Hannah Barlow, Principal Committee Manager and Eleanor Haigh, Senior Policy Adviser, at assemblytransport@london.gov.uk.

Yours,



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⁴ London Assembly Transport Committee, [RMT - Written evidence to the London Assembly Transport Committee](#), February 2026, p.14; London Assembly Transport Committee, [Assaults on Transport Workers in London – Panel 2](#), 24 February, p.15

⁵ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Assaults on Transport Workers in London – Panel 2](#), 24 February, p.15