

8th December 2017

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The Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queens's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Dear Mayor Khan,

I am informed (reliably or not) that your policy towards future building consent being granted is dependent on the exclusion of parking spaces. This is obviously in line with the wish that everyone should use public transport rather than clogging up the roads.

I am fully supportive of the theory especially as one who uses public transport every day when travelling to work from SW6 to EC2. Indeed even in the evening when travelling home after evening engagements I will normally take a bus rather than a taxi.

With the above in mind, I hope that you will appreciate that we do not live in a perfect world and that there are exceptions and they should not be excluded from "the mix". When taking an early morning (0635hrs) tube to Paddington last Saturday in order to take the train to Wales for a rugby match there were no District line or Circle line tubes in operation going to Edgware Road. This meant that I had to go via Embankment and take the Bakerloo Line up to Paddington, thus almost doubling my journey time and reaching the train with four minutes to spare. The journey to Cardiff and back took 3hrs 11 mins due to engineering works and two carriages were decoupled and all reserved seats were cancelled. On the way back there was standing room only until Bristol due to the crowds (not unexpected) and the journey back took over four hours which meant I got back extremely late in the evening.

My point in detailing this in an extremely boring way is that I could have driven down in 2 hrs 35 mins and done the return journey in the same time. In addition, I have a wife who has Crohn's disease. There is absolutely no way that she would accompany me on such a trip for fear of having to stand and also not being able to access a loo in an emergency. Can you imagine the distress and humiliation of trying to reach a loo through "boozed" up crowds of people even allowing for the fact that she

would not be able to reach it in the first place. I could not even contemplate taking any aged parent on such a trip by public transport, either the tube or the train.

We do need cars I am afraid. It is a fact of life especially if we are dealing with the aged or infirm. Most of us who live in London use public transport as the figures will indicate. Capacity is tight and in many cases animals are treated better than those of us who have to put up with tubes at rush hour. However, I am hoping that Crossrail will help to ease the congestion by freeing up capacity on other lines and that Cross-rail 2 will also be a game breaker in this respect.

Please do not waste any ones time with a detailed response. You will have better things to do. I just want to reiterate that this issue is not black and white but has shades of grey.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Piers Inkin