

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Email: andrew@andrewdismore.org.uk
Web: www.andrewdismore.org.uk
Twitter: @Andrew_Dismore
Telephone: 020 7983 5529



Andrew Dismore AM

Mike Freer MP
Rt. Hon Theresa Villiers MP
Dr Matthew Offord MP

Dear Mike, Theresa and Matthew,

21 October 2020

Re: TfL Funding

I am writing this open letter to you because you have the power to prevent the lives of millions of Londoners becoming considerably worse off as a result of the cruelty and vindictiveness of the Government, as amply demonstrated in their treatment of Manchester this week.

You will know perfectly well the history of TfL's finances, how Boris Johnson as Mayor gave away TfL's annual £700 million grant from the Government. How Sadiq Khan reduced the operating deficit by 71%, and increased cash balances by 13%.

I note your party has been erroneously stating that Sadiq's fare freezes, aimed at helping the poorest Londoners with the cost of living, is responsible for funding shortfalls, but I am sure you will know that it has only cost £160 million a year over 4 years – in total only sufficient to meet just 4 weeks of TfL's costs- so I hope you will now correct the record.

Londoners did the right thing during the Covid pandemic and stayed away from public transport to help control the virus, which led to a 90% drop in TfL revenues. Your government are now using COVID as a pretext to punish Londoners with a raft of measure that will cripple this city:

- Extending the £15 Congestion Charge Zone to the North and South Circular roads in 12 months' time.
- Taking away free travel from under 18s
- removing the over 60's travel concession
- Introducing a higher council tax precept charge in the capital.
- Increasing TfL fares by greater than RPI+1 per cent for the next several years.

My question to you is whose side are you on? Your constituents' or your party's?

Will you punish the young and old by taking away their free travel, when you have already defunded social care and youth services, and backed millions in school funding cuts?

Do you think it right that parents should have to pay £15 a day - £75 a week- for the 'school run'; or families £15 to drive to the supermarket for their weekly shop?

Will you punish Barnet's many car users, and along the way damage our town centres and local businesses?

Will you punish commuters with higher fares after ten years of stagnant wage growth for many and a cost of living crisis?

Will you punish all Londoners with higher council taxes, when you've robbed them of £1 billion of police funding, £700 million of TfL funding a year and all the other services hit by the cuts you've voted for?

Do you think it is right that the government should act the school bully towards Londoners, threatening to take direct control of Transport for London unless the mayor accepts your government's draconian package?

I urge you to do the right thing and stand up for your constituents. Oppose this deal and vote against it. Put your constituents ahead of your party and prevent the worst catastrophe to hit the prosperity of Barnet and London in decades.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dismore AM

Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden