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LABOUR

Joanne McCartney AM

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Minicom: 020 7983 4458
Web: www.london.gov.uk

Sir Peter Hendy
Commissioner
Transport for London
Windsor House
42-50 Victoria Street
SW1H 0TL

Our ref: JM/YK
Date: 09 June 2015

Dear Sir Peter,

RE: Bowes Road footbridge

I write regarding the ongoing closure of the stairs on the Bowes Road/Wilmer Way pedestrian footbridge that I first raised with Transport for London (TfL) in March 2014. The footbridge is located next to Broomfield Secondary School and near to Bowes Road Primary School. To date this is the correspondence between TfL and myself on this case.

- March 2014 – After raising the closure of the stairs of the footbridge, TfL informed me that they were closed due to a structural failure of pin joints at these locations and investigations were being carried out to establish the cause of the failure, and to remedy the problem as quickly as possible.
- May 2014 – I responded to TfL to relay residents concerns over the lack of information about the closure of the stairs and risks to school children who were likely to avoid using the ramps which would lengthen their journey and would instead attempt to cross the busy road, increasing the likelihood of an accident.
- June 2014 – TfL responded and stated that the footbridge was open but only accessible using the ramps at present and the pedestrian crossings at the A406/Wilmer Way/Bowes Road junction were provided to complement the footbridge, and were designed so that all pedestrians - including the most vulnerable - have sufficient time to cross the carriageway safely at all times, regardless of whether the footbridge is in use.

Direct telephone: 020 7983 5524 **Fax:** 020 7983 4953 **Email:** Joanne.mccartney@london.gov.uk

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- September 2014 – I raised further concerns with TfL about the lack of a timeline provided for the resolution of this issue and received a link directing me to a question that I had put to the Mayor at Mayor's Question Time on the 22nd October 2014. I was informed that TfL intends to lift the restriction by April 2015 (MQ 2014/3864). I passed this information to local councillors and residents.
- March 2015 – I raised additional concerns with the lack of lighting on the ramps on the bridge and queries over crossing times at the pedestrian crossing.
- April 2015 – I received a response from TfL providing me with the timings of the crossing and informing me that the lighting faults were being worked on and would be rectified in the next couple of weeks. TfL did not agree that there was a need for any additional lighting as the existing lighting will be sufficient to illuminate the ramps.
- April 2015 – I asked TfL for an update on the works to the stairs on the footbridge and whether the restriction has been lifted as suggested it would be in April 2015.
- April 2015 – TfL responded to say that the restriction has not yet been lifted and a specific date cannot yet be provided. However, TfL confirmed that the footbridge is to be addressed as a priority scheme and that they are aiming to complete this remedial work this year.
- May 2015 – TfL responded to local residents and informed them that the works to repair the stairs on the footbridge is a priority scheme repair works will be completed this financial year 2015/2016. TfL stated that the safety of the public is not at risk in the meantime because the stairs are closed, but access can still be gained via the ramps.

The length of time it is taking for this issue to be resolved and the lack of definite information as to when the footbridge will be fully operational is unacceptable. Residents are understandably concerned and angry at the length of time this issue has taken to be resolved and have again expressed concerns with regard to children's safety.

Will you please review this situation with urgency to ensure that the problems with the bridge are rectified as soon as possible and ensure this information is communicated to myself and local residents? Will you also provide me with a detailed explanation of why this issue has taken so long to resolve and a revised timeline of the works with a proposed end date?

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McCartney', with a large, sweeping flourish at the bottom.

Joanne McCartney AM

London Assembly Member for Enfield and Haringey

Encl.

MQ 2014/3864 – Bowes Road footbridge

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Bowes Road footbridge

Meeting: Mayor's Question Time

Date: Wednesday, 22 October 2014

Reference: Question 2014/3864

Main question

Joanne McCartney

I have repeatedly raised the issue of the closure of the Wilmer Way/Bowes Road footbridge stairs which are currently taped up due to a structural fault. In March, TfL informed me that the stairs on the footbridge were closed due to a structural failure of pin joints at these locations and investigations were being carried out to establish the cause of the failure, and to remedy the problem as quickly as possible. However, further to that email TfL responded in June to inform me that the footbridge was still accessible via the ramps at present with no indication of when the fault with the stairs would be resolved. This is causing a lot of difficulties for my local constituents and there are great concerns that local school children are not using the footbridge since the stairs are out of action, and are crossing the extremely busy road. Do you think that this is an adequate response and what action will be taken to ensure the fault with the footbridge is rectified as soon as possible before there is an accident? Please provide me with details and timelines for the necessary repairs so that I can inform my local residents.

The Mayor

A design solution is currently being developed that will resolve the issue. Until then the only safe option is to keep the stairs closed. TfL intends to be able to lift the restriction by April 2015.

At Wilmer Way there is a pedestrian crossing facility less than 50 metres away. The footbridge remains open and is still accessible via the ramps, which remain open. TfL visited the footbridge recently at the end of a school day and observed pedestrians using both the footbridge and the pedestrian crossing.

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