

# Transport for London extraordinary funding and financing

It is vital that we take the necessary steps to protect the services which our critical workers, such as NHS staff, rely on – both in London and all across the country.

So far, we have invested billions into maintaining essential services across rail, buses, trams and ferries outside London, including £30 million over 12 weeks for light rail services in Sheffield, Manchester, West Midlands, Tyne and Wear, and Nottingham; almost £400 million to protect vital bus routes and temporarily suspended rail operators' franchise agreements to transfer all revenue and cost risk to government so that services continue to run.

This is alongside our wider agenda to level up transport networks across the whole country, including [£5 billion for buses and bikes announced back in February](#) (2020), [£4.2 billion for local transport settlements for 8 Mayoral Combined Authorities subject to negotiations](#), a [£1.7 billion Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund to improve roads, repair bridges and fill millions of potholes](#); and the decision by [government to take over the Northern network to protect services, drive up performance and rebuild passenger confidence](#).

We will continue to work with metro mayors, local authorities and transport operators all across the country to ensure that public transport is available for those who need it, including any ramp up in services required as people slowly start to return to work.

In order to keep vital public transport services running in London and further ramp up services to support social distancing, the government agreed on Thursday 14 May [a package of support for Transport for London \(TfL\)](#). It comprises £1.095 billion of new grant and a further loan facility of £505 million. The support can be increased by a further £300 million of grant and loan if revenue loss is higher than forecast at this time.

The settlement for TfL was needed for two reasons. Most important is the significant fall in revenue caused by COVID-19. However, an important secondary factor was the pre-existing poor condition of TfL's financial position as a result of decisions made over the last 4 years. Combined with significant cost increases and delays to Crossrail, this left TfL in serious financial difficulty even before the public health emergency.

It's important to note that around half of all bus and rail journeys in England are made on its services and that London is by far the most public transport-dependent place in the UK. Almost half of all Londoners, more in inner London, do not have access to cars. London's roads are the most congested in the UK; even with reduced passenger numbers and capacity, TfL's services are still essential to allow critical workers to travel and the city to operate.

Unlike local transport authorities in other towns and cities across England, TfL is responsible for London's bus network, principal road routes, various rail networks including the London Underground, London Overground, Docklands Light Railway and TfL Rail, as well as trams, cycling provision, and river services. To protect these services, It is important therefore that the rescue package takes steps to put TfL back on a sustainable footing while ensuring fairness for the wider British taxpayer. As result, the mayor intends to adhere to the proposal in TfL's own business plan that fares should increase by RPI plus 1% on all modes in January.

We have also set a number of other conditions, including: restoring services to 100% of pre-COVID levels as soon as possible; requiring TfL to collect fares on buses while ensuring driver safety, which it had stopped doing during the crisis; easing congestion by the temporary suspension of free travel for over-60s in the morning peak and temporarily suspending free travel for under-18s all day. Disabled people will still be able to make use of their concession passes all day, and special arrangements will be made for those children who qualify for free travel to schools.

These conditions are needed to avoid crowding and reduce the exposure of vulnerable groups. The mayor has subsequently announced that the Congestion Charge will increase to £15, with extended hours of operation and has withdrawn the residents' discount for new applications.

The Congestion Charge will continue to have exemptions for NHS and care workers and Blue badge holders. Local residents will continue to receive discounts.

To help avoid such drastic action in the future there will be an immediate and broad ranging government-led review of TfL's future financial position and structure.

The decision to offer support was not taken lightly, but reflects the exceptional circumstances the country finds itself in. I consider it vital to keep services in London running to the maximum levels possible to allow safe transport of passengers. Our messaging remains that people should avoid using public transport and work from home wherever possible, but as measures are slowly lifted it is vital that Londoners who need to use TfL services feel safe and secure.

This deal will encourage help protect those who need to use public transport and help us move towards greener and healthier walking and cycling options. Importantly, it will also provide certainty and stability for London's transport services in the future.

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# GAD 2025 Strategy – building on our strengths

News story

In the new GAD 2025 Strategy, we set out our renewed approach to building on our strengths while focusing on 4 key areas; our clients, our people, inclusion and processes.



The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has refreshed its strategic objectives and framework for the next 5 years. In the [new GAD 2025 Strategy](#), we have set out our approach to building on our strengths while focusing on key areas to ensure that as a department of experts we remain fit for the future.

## **Expertise and analysis**

GAD provides actuarial solutions including financial risk analysis, modelling and advice. We support, and solve financial challenges faced in, the UK public sector. The department is one of several public sector organisations which belong to the government's [Analysis Function](#).

Our areas of expertise continue to evolve and cover:

- Insurance, risk and contingent liabilities
- Financial models and quality assurance
- Pension and social security schemes
- Climate change, health and social care

## **Key areas**

In the new GAD 2025 Strategy we focus on 4 main areas; our clients, our people, inclusion and processes. The document also sets out GAD's aims and priorities in each section. This detailed and ambitious 5-year strategy has at its heart a vision that sees GAD in 2025 as a department where we:

- make a difference

- partner effectively with our clients
- are seen as a great place to work
- are widely recognised and respected throughout the public sector

Welcoming the GAD 2025 Strategy, Martin Clarke, the Government Actuary said: “We will build on our strengths including our strong reputation as objective, professional actuarial experts within the public sector.

“We place our clients’ needs at the centre of what we do, and we offer fulfilling careers in a supportive environment.

“The benefits to us all of working together to achieve our vision are huge – acquiring new skills, solving new problems and using the latest technology. I see an exciting future for GAD, and I’m looking forward to playing my part in making it happen.”

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## [Traffic officers swoop to rescue ducklings stranded on M1](#)

Press release

A terrified family of ducklings were saved by Highways England traffic officers when the brood wandered onto the M1 motorway.



The brood of ducklings rescued from the M1 by Highways England traffic officers

The officers swiftly reacted to reports of nine ducklings close to motorway traffic between junctions 27 (Hucknall) and 28 (Alfreton).

Traffic officers briefly closed the northbound carriageway of the motorway at

around 4.30pm on Saturday to safely round the stray birds up.

The ducklings were then handed to Derbyshire Police officers and will be found a good home.

Highways England duty manager Richard Meakin said:

We closed the motorway for about 10 minutes so the traffic officers could safely round up the ducklings – animals can be very unpredictable and we didn't want them heading into the carriageway.

I'm pleased to say all ducklings were recovered safe and sound and will now be found a good home far away from the motorway.

### **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

### **Media enquiries**

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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## **[Stephen Gibson appointed as RPC interim chair](#)**

Press release

RPC committee member Stephen Gibson has been confirmed as the RPC interim chair.



Stephen Gibson has been appointed as interim chair of the RPC, having previously been a member of the committee since May 2018. Stephen has over 25 years' experience as a professional economist across a range of regulated sectors including post, water, ports, rail, aviation, energy and telecoms, working as a consultant and from both sides of the regulatory fence.

Business Minister Lord Callanan said: "The Regulatory Policy Committee offers important advice and scrutiny to Government on regulatory change, ensuring we can effectively deliver policy, while keeping the burdens on business to a minimum.

"I am pleased to see Stephen appointed as interim chair. As an existing committee member, he brings the vital experience and continuity the RPC needs to take forward its work in these exceptional times."

Interim chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee, Stephen Gibson said: "I am delighted to be appointed to this exciting role. It is more important than ever that we have better and more effective regulations that promote the interests of society including businesses, civil society organisations and the public. I look forward to working with government departments and regulators to improve the evidence and analysis underpinning their regulatory decisions."

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## [Protecting our mental health](#)

News story

Our lives have all changed dramatically over the last 2 months. In times like this, it's natural to feel more anxious or stressed.



## World Mental Health Awareness Week

So, this year's World Mental Health Awareness Week is even more important than ever.

We will once again be sharing lots of resources this week to help you look after your mental health or to give you support if you are struggling.

We will also be sharing some of our employees' thoughts and top tips for their mental health during these strange times.

The theme for this year's event is kindness. We'll be sharing some of our employees' thoughts on this, as well as continuing to share some of the extraordinary examples of kindness our employees have been demonstrating through their volunteering.

Sellafield Ltd's Chief Nuclear Officer and mental health sponsor, Euan Hutton said:

We are once again supporting Mental Health Awareness Week. It is a great opportunity to remind everyone of the need to look after their mental health. This has always been important and has always been a message I've shared, but it's even more critical now.

No matter how resilient any of us is, the huge changes we've seen to our lives, are bound to have an impact on our health – both mental and physical.

As always, one of the best mental health tips is to speak to someone about your mental health, especially if you are not feeling as you normally do.

In fact, I would urge everyone to take the time this week to have a conversation with someone about their mental health. Why not give a team mate or friend a call for a chat? Especially if you've not been in touch as much as normal.

[Euan Hutton](#)

## Resources and more information

We've shared some welfare and wellbeing resources on our Coronavirus guidance for employees area on the [website](#).

Mental Health Awareness Week is organised by the Mental Health Foundation. You can find lots of useful information on their [website](#).

The Green Ribbon campaign promotes mental health awareness. They encourage people to share a green ribbon. Ordinarily, we'd wear these badges, but this year, they are promoting [virtual green ribbons](#).

On social media, search the hashtag #mhaw or #mhaw2020 to find other resources.

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