



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE

15 February 2023

Dear Sadiq,

I am writing to you regarding the planned cuts to the 213 and 57 bus routes.

These buses are a vital part of Kingston's infrastructure and cuts to their services will impact thousands of children and commuters a day. They constitute the only main bus routes that connect Kingston Town Centre with Kingston Hospital as well as serving Coombe Girls, Coombe Boys, Richard Challoner and Holy Cross schools.

The 213 alone carries around 15,000 passengers a day and is the only direct transport link between Kingston and Sutton. While TfL's data may show that the number of passengers has fallen, I can tell you that this reduction is not reflected on the ground with many of my constituents often unable to board due to overcrowding.

Since the pandemic, TfL states that the number of passengers on this service has fallen by 9%, even if this is accurate, planned cuts constitute a 20% reduction in service. Beyond simply being disproportionate, this cut is short sighted. Now more than ever is the time to invest in outer London's buses and to prepare them for the future.

You have made it clear that you aim to get more Londoners out of their cars and on to public transport, but by cutting this service and others like it, you are working directly to oppose your own strategy. If you want to encourage Londoners to use buses, they have to be regular, reliable, and frequent. To push residents out of their cars with one hand, only to cut buses with the other, threatens to isolate communities across the region and paints TfL as an organisation without a long-term strategy for London.

At the start of the new year, you pledged to add a million kilometres of bus routes to outer London. 80% of new years resolutions fail by the second week of February. Do not let such an important policy be one of them.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Olney MP