
Secretariat memorandum

Author : Mark Donoghue

Agenda item : 5

AT013

Final Draft : 2.12.09

Actions taken

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1. To record matters dealt with by the Chair, Deputy Chair, Chief Executive and/or the secretariat since the last meeting.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1. That the report is received for information.

3 Information

- 3.1. Disability Discrimination Act : Section 47 Exemption Application by London Underground Ltd

On 5 November 2009 the Streets and Surface Transport Policy Officer responded to the Department for Transport regarding the exemption application by London Underground Ltd, see Annex for details.

4 Equalities and inclusion implications

- 4.1. In accordance with London TravelWatch's duties under the Disability Discrimination Act and other legislation, account is taken when responding to consultations on proposals from external bodies of their particular impact (if any) on the needs of people whose access to transport may be restricted by reason of disability or social exclusion.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1. No specific financial implications for London TravelWatch arise from this report.

6 Legal powers

- 6.1. Section 252A of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 places a duty upon London TravelWatch (as the London Transport Users Committee) to keep under review matters affecting the interests of the public in relation to railway passenger and station services provided wholly or partly within the London railway area, and to make representations about them to such persons as it thinks appropriate.

Annexe

5 November 2009

Roger Turner
Rail Vehicle Accessibility
Rail Technical and Professional
Department for Transport
Zone 4/32, Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

Dear Mr Turner

Disability Discrimination Act: Section 47 Exemption Application by London Underground Ltd

Thank you for letter of 9th September 2009, regarding the proposed Section 47 Exemption Application by London Underground Ltd.

In considering these requests for exemption we have recognised that London Underground operates a very high frequency railway carrying large numbers of passengers.

1. *Regulation 4(3) (b) Audible Door Closure Warnings*
2. *Regulation 5(2) Visual Door Warning Indicators*

We are happy to support these temporary exemptions whilst new trains are introduced. However, this should not be taken as support for a permanent exemption. We would like to be involved in the review which will occur at the end of the period.

3. *Regulation 13(4) Announcements to be made whilst at a station*

We accept the operational reasons for this exemption.

4. *Regulation 16 (1) (b) and (d) Handrails within wheelchair space*

We support the provision of handrails in the area reserved for wheelchairs as passengers are likely to be standing in this area during their journey. We support this exemption.

We believe it is vital that the disabled area is well marked out and identified; would it be possible to place a clear large wheelchair symbol on the fabric of the back seat and on the floor of the carriage to clearly identify this area as reserved for wheelchair users

5. *Regulation 23 (1) Boarding devices at wheelchair accessible doorways*

London TravelWatch accepts the operational problems London Underground would have regarding the provision of boarding ramps. We support the exemptions sought. However, we have learnt recently that London Undergrounds plans for step-free access has been revised. Therefore the schedules should be updated to reflect their new plans.

Yours sincerely

Vincent Stops
Streets and Surface Transport Policy Officer