

By email: yoursay@tfl.gov.uk

4 June 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed changes to congestion charge

London TravelWatch is the statutory body representing London's transport users. We are grateful for the opportunity to be able to comment.

London TravelWatch supports the principle of congestion charging insofar as it is the only realistic way of tackling congestion and managing the demand for road space in London. It enables the local highway authority to prioritise road space for the most space efficient modes, bus, walk and cycle. We welcome the extension of the operational hours because one would expect that, as lockdown comes to an end, more people will start to travel. Road space will also be reduced as a result of Covid related streets schemes. This could lead to congestion rising outside of the existing operational hours of Congestion charge. 7:00am till 22:00pm would seem to be reasonable hours of operation.

We are happy to support the closing of applications for new residents' discounts for similar reasons. We have no view of the scale of the charge suggested. We are pleased that NHS and care staff are to be reimbursed, but also ask that consideration is given to those that might collect Covid patients. This will be a small group, but those that collect their relatives, say, may not be able to afford the charge or may not be able to use public transport for such a journey. Any arrangements for this must be simple, easy to administer, and timely in their reimbursement of monies expended.

Regards

Vincent Stops
Senior Policy Officer