

A review of ticket office closures on the London Underground – the passenger perspective

November 2016



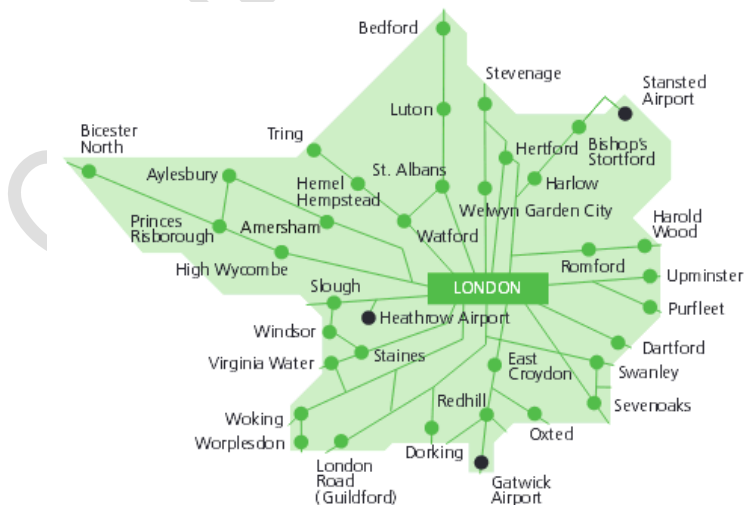
London TravelWatch is the independent, multi-modal body set up by Parliament to provide a voice for London's travelling public. This includes users of rail services in and around London, all Transport for London (TfL) services (bus, Tube, DLR, trams, taxis) and motorists, cyclists and pedestrians using London's strategic road network. We are funded by and accountable to the London Assembly.

Our approach

- We commission and carry out research, and evaluate and interpret the research carried out by others, to ensure that our work is based on the best possible evidence
- We investigate complaints that people have been unable to resolve with service providers – we get more than 6,000 enquiries a year from transport users and in 2014-15 we took up more than 850 cases with the operator because the original response the complainant had received was unsatisfactory
- We monitor trends in service quality as part of our intelligence-led approach
- We regularly meet with and seek to influence the relevant parts of the transport industry on all issues which affect the travelling public
- We work with a wide range of public interest organisations, user groups and research bodies to ensure we keep up to date with passenger experiences and concerns
- We speak for the travelling public in discussions with opinion formers and decision makers at all levels, including the Mayor of London, the London Assembly, the Government, Parliament and local councils.

Our experience of using London's extensive public transport network, paying for our own travel, and seeing for ourselves what transport users go through, helps ensure we remain connected and up to date.

Our aim is to press in all that we do for a better travel experience for all those living, working or visiting London and its surrounding region.



(Crossrail Elizabeth Line only – Reading to Shenfield)

Foreword

Around 4 million journeys are made on the London Underground every day and demand is growing year on year. It is fundamental that the Underground adapts to meet this demand both for Londoners and visitors alike.



London TravelWatch is the independent watchdog for passengers in London, and as such, this report focuses on the passenger experience in London Underground stations. The findings are based on a range of research including passenger surveys, focus groups and mystery shopping. During this research, passengers were asked about their experiences in London Underground stations in relation to ticketing, availability of assistance, safety and information.

As the entry point to the London Underground network, tube stations are of vital importance to passengers. People's experiences in stations form part of the basis of their opinions on not just the transport network, but London as a whole.

London Underground has changed how they provide customer service on the Underground through the closure of ticket offices and moving staff from the ticket offices to be more visible and available to help customers. This review of the ticket office closures was commissioned by Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, to assess the customer service given to passengers now that ticket offices have closed on most of the network. This review builds on our research of 2014, where we asked passengers for their views on the proposed ticket office closures and changes to ticketing.

London TravelWatch feels that although the best place to purchase tickets is from a ticket office, there is a greater overall benefit to passengers in staff on the London Underground being available in ticket halls carrying out a range of customer service and operational tasks. We are therefore not opposed to the principle of ticket office closures, though we strongly feel that there are a number of issues with the current system on the London Underground that need to be addressed before the system can work to the full benefit of the passengers. These issues form the basis for our recommendations.

Passengers who participated in our research broadly concur with our view that London Underground stations do not necessarily need a ticket office in order to operate effectively, noting that they are generally able to obtain the tickets and assistance they need on the Underground. They did however frequently highlight the inconsistencies on the network, and Londoners participating in our research expressed particular concern for tourists visiting the capital.

In order for the system to function effectively, these inconsistencies need to be removed to ensure passengers receive the same level of service whether they are using a large station in central London with multiple lines running through it at peak time, or a small station in outer London at the weekend.

As demand continues to grow, it remains critically important that passengers can use transport services safely. Crucially, our research showed that a significant number of passengers now feel less safe on the London Underground than they did prior to the ticket office closures. This is something that must be addressed by TfL as a matter of urgency.

Accessibility was also a primary concern for passengers during this review. TfL needs to continue to invest in its accessibility programme, prioritising key locations on the network (such as Euston and Bank) to ensure the network is accessible to all.

This report has been submitted to the Mayor's Office for their consideration, and they may wish to make recommendations to the TfL Board. In the event of this, TfL will consider whether to adopt the recommendations and we expect them to report their conclusions to the Mayor's Office at a later TfL Board meeting.

Note that this report concerns the 260 stations where London Underground has closed ticket offices. It therefore does not cover London Underground stations that are operated by National Rail train operators or the London Underground stations that continue to operate with ticket offices. These are listed in Appendix AA.

Stephen Locke, Chair
November 2016

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1 Executive Summary

This report gives the passenger perspective on the impact of the closure of London Underground ticket offices, and recommendations for changes that could make the system work better for passengers.

The report concludes that:

- If the recommendations are implemented, London Underground can deliver excellent customer service without the need for ticket offices
- Passengers can benefit from the changes to how London Underground operates its stations, but only subject to changes being made as suggested in this report
- The full programme of ticket office closures was carried out before all accompanying elements were in place, particularly the updating of ticket machines to provide the necessary functionality and to be reliable enough to cope with the extra demand
- If it is not possible to undertake the outlined changes, it may be necessary to re-open some ticket offices.

There are positives to the new system, over and above what was previously delivered to passengers, through staff predominantly working in ticket halls. Primarily, when staff are available, they are able to deliver enhanced levels of customer service by being more proactive and able to help. Passengers value staff presence in and around the ticket hall, and welcome the extra interaction that the changes have allowed.

Throughout our research, it has become clear that most passengers feel that the most critical part of their journey experience relating to staff is around the visibility and availability of staff, as opposed to their location. The loss of ticket offices has created challenges, particularly the loss of a focal point where passengers could reliably get assistance. Our research has shown some change in passengers' perception of safety since the closures, with passengers stating that their feelings of safety are strongly related to staff presence. In total, 40% of our combined survey respondents stated they feel less safe in ticket halls now than they did a year ago. This was comprised of 45% (1,715 respondents) of the London TravelWatch survey, and 17% (150 respondents) of the survey conducted by the GLA's Talk London Panel.¹ The difference in these surveys is explained in Appendix A. If the recommendations are implemented, passengers would retain the benefits of more proactive and helpful staff, while also gaining more of a sense of safety and security.

¹ The Talk London panel is made up of around 30,000 Londoners and is a forum to discuss proposed changes to a range of things in London, including transport.

The closure of ticket offices has added a degree of disorder and uncertainty to the journeys of many passengers that needs to be addressed if they are to feel confident in using the network. In particular, the deficiencies of the “turn up and go” process for people who require extra assistance need to be resolved as a matter of urgency.²

A further problem for passengers is that ticket machines are unable to perform all the transactions that were previously available at ticket offices. The range of transactions lost is considerable, and the ticket machines are less reliable with the increased demand. These problems should have been anticipated and addressed before implementing the changes.

A significant upgrade to both the functionality and reliability of ticket machines is therefore essential for the system to work, and we feel that if the ticket machines cannot be suitably improved, some locations may require alternative ticketing facilities.

1.1 Key findings

Staff Visibility

Inconsistency in the visibility of staff is an issue that was brought up by passengers across all of our research. Passengers value visible staff highly, both in terms of being able to get assistance and also feelings of safety. Part of the issue is the low visibility of staff uniforms. New uniforms that are predominantly navy blue were brought in to accompany the changes. Passengers therefore often find staff difficult to see in stations, meaning they may perceive there to be no staff, rather than staff not actually being out in the ticket hall to provide assistance.



Figure 1 Staff member assisting a passenger at ticket machines at London Bridge

² Turn up and Go allows passengers who require additional assistance to arrive at London Underground stations and receive assistance from staff without having to pre-book. Further details can be found later in this report.

Safety and security

A number of factors have affected passengers' perceptions of safety and security. The biggest influencing factor is the number of staff visible on the network, but there is also a sense of increased confusion without a focal point at stations, and a sense that there is a less defined way to get assistance when needed. Staff uniforms need to stand out more; the navy uniforms blend into a crowd rather than stand out, and should either be a more dominant colour or supplemented with high visibility clothing. Many stations have a single member of staff only, and this adds to a feeling that there is not enough supervision of the network, especially when the single member of staff is required to perform many duties, some away from the ticket hall/gateline area. At these times the gateline has to be left open, leading to a feeling that the station is unstaffed altogether. Staff generally provide a high level of customer service, but are under considerable pressure to perform multiple tasks and help passengers at the same time.

Focal point at stations

One of the main concerns raised by passengers, especially those who require additional assistance, is that stations can feel chaotic, and have no defined place to go to find staff or ask for assistance. There are also inconsistencies on the network, with passengers receiving different levels of customer service depending on the station they use and the time of day they travel. The challenge faced by passengers in finding assistance, especially at stations with only one member of staff available, is significant. Many passengers previously viewed the ticket office as effectively the station control room, and there is a sense that without this defined place, there is not one clear place where passengers can get assistance.

We recommend that every London Underground station has a defined place where passengers can wait for a member of staff to assist them. This should usually be near the ticket machines or the information zone, but at smaller stations can be near the gateline. In every station, a visual and tactile strip should be installed from the main entrance to the focal point, complemented with traditional signage to the point. At the focal point there should be a hearing loop facility, as well as some clear message about where to wait for staff if none are available instantly, and where the nearest help point can be found in an emergency.

Ticket machines

We recommend that London Underground ticket machines either be upgraded, or new ones installed, that are able to:

- Cope with increased use and operate reliably without breaking down, or failing to accept cash or give change

- Sell annual season tickets with staff authorisation
- Refund Oyster deposits and unused credit (without the 48-hour delay from purchase currently in place)
- Sell extension tickets from boundary zones or other stations
- Sell tickets for travel on another day
- Top-up Oyster credit amounts with any amount that the passenger wishes
- Print out Oyster journey history for any Oyster card
- Sell an increased range of National Rail tickets
- Provide Railcard discounts on National Rail ticket purchases

Accessibility

Accessibility is a particular challenge to passengers who require extra assistance. With ticket offices, it was common practice that when a passenger who required assistance turned up at a station, the ticket office would ring the station(s) that the passenger was going to/through to confirm what time the assistance was required. Without ticket offices, the process is much more difficult for staff, and can break down. Station staff are now required to ring the line controller, who is often busy with operational matters, to ask them to ring the other station(s) to confirm arrangements. Without being able to phone a ticket office, it is harder to find the right person at the station, and passengers are reporting frequent issues where their assistance is not ready for them on their arrival at their destination.

2 Research Method

The report below combines evidence from the following areas:

- London TravelWatch passenger survey
- GLA Talk London Panel survey
- Focus groups carried out by 2CV
- A range of data on stations provided by TfL
- Mystery shops carried out by London TravelWatch staff
- Assisted mystery shops carried out with disabled passengers
- Written correspondence from members of the public
- Written correspondence from key stakeholders (including Train Operating Companies and political stakeholders)
- Previous London TravelWatch research on other areas

A full summary of research used in this report is in the appendices.

2.1 Surveys

There were two surveys carried out as part of the research – one by London TravelWatch, and one by the Greater London Authority (GLA) Talk London panel. Appendices A and B summarise the two surveys in detail.

The London TravelWatch survey was open to all members of the public, meaning respondents were self-selecting. In contrast, the GLA Talk London survey was sent directly to panel members who were selected as a representative sample of Londoners. Further information on the Talk London panel can be found here: <http://talklondon.london.gov.uk/>. Passengers responding to the two surveys expressed some different opinions about the ticket office closures, with respondents to the London TravelWatch survey generally having stronger feelings about the changes. Due to the different methods of data collection, statistics from the two surveys will be outlined separately below.

2.2 Focus groups and passenger interviews

Research company 2CV undertook a series of focus groups with a range of participants, including one staff group and one group with disabilities. They also interviewed tourists as they passed through two central London stations. A detailed summary of the findings from this research can be found in Appendix C.

The focus groups and interviews specifically targeted a broader range of passenger types than the surveys as they purposely recruited infrequent users (tourists) as well as retirees, passengers with families and passengers with disabilities, tailoring each focus group to the participants involved.

Focus groups generally showed that passengers feel their needs are being met by London Underground, but that there are inconsistencies on the network which should be addressed by TfL.

2.3 TfL Data

As part of the review, London TravelWatch requested information from TfL, including data on staff presence, ticket machine reliability, gateline availability and station closures. The information from TfL can be found in Appendices E-U.

2.4 Mystery shopping and assisted mystery shopping

Mystery shops were carried out by members of London TravelWatch staff travelling alone, and assisted mystery shops were carried out by staff travelling with disabled passengers. All mystery shops were carried out from the passenger perspective, with participants spending no longer than 10 minutes at each station. Appendix A contains a full summary of both sets of mystery shopping.

2.5 Consultation with other stakeholders

London TravelWatch also consulted with the following stakeholders as part of the review:

- Train operating companies
- Trade Unions
- Accessibility campaign groups
- Metropolitan Police Service
- The British Transport Police

3 Research Evidence

This section outlines some of the findings from the research and information compiled which have been used as a basis for the recommendations.

3.1 Survey findings

Journey types

Of the London TravelWatch survey respondents, 72% use the Underground primarily for travel to work, 25% travel for leisure activities and 2% travel for education. 52% of people who filled in the GLA Panel survey stated they use the Underground primarily for travel to work, 45% travel for leisure, and 2% travel for education. The percentages of passengers using the Underground four or more times a week was 68% of London TravelWatch responses and 43% of GLA Panel responses. When examined together, it is reasonable to assume that a significant proportion of respondents are therefore familiar users of the tube who make regular commuter journeys.

Paying for travel

The two main methods of payment used by respondents were Oyster Pay As You Go (PAYG) (37% of London TravelWatch responses and 22% of GLA Panel responses) and Contactless/Oyster auto top up (20% of London TravelWatch responses and 36% of GLA Panel responses). Season tickets on Oyster made up 25% and 18% respectively. Freedom Pass holders made up 6% of the London TravelWatch survey responses, and 18% of the GLA panel responses. Paper ticket users made up 6% of the London TravelWatch survey and 2% of the GLA Panel survey.

Ticket machines

Of the London TravelWatch survey respondents, 27% stated that they do not use ticket machines on the London Underground. This was higher amongst GLA Panel respondents at 46%.

Of those who do purchase tickets in stations, 35% of London TravelWatch respondents indicated that they do so at least weekly. By contrast, 12% of GLA Panel respondents purchase tickets in stations at least weekly. Passengers paying for travel monthly or less than monthly made up 41% of London TravelWatch responses and 69% of GLA Panel responses. Finally, 24% of London TravelWatch participants and 19% of GLA Panel participants stated that they never purchase tickets in stations

The overwhelming majority of people who use ticket machines in stations indicated that they use them to top up their Oyster PAYG cards (79% of London TravelWatch participants and 77% of GLA Panel participants). 26% of respondents to the London TravelWatch survey and 15% of GLA participants purchased paper tickets for travel. 24% of London TravelWatch respondents use machines to purchase tickets, compared to 19.6% of the GLA Panel respondents. 23% of London TravelWatch participants and 16% of the GLA Panel participants go to ticket machines to resolve problems with their Oyster card. Finally, 17% of London TravelWatch respondents use London Underground ticket machines to purchase tickets for travel on National Rail services. This contrasts with 7% of GLA Panel respondents.

31% of London TravelWatch responses and 33% of GLA Panel responses indicated that London Underground ticket machines are easy to use. 39% of London TravelWatch responses and 55% of GLA Panel responses stated they are usually easy to use, for example if all functionality is available. Finally, 30% of the London TravelWatch responses indicated that machines are not easy to use. This contrasts with the 11% of the GLA Panel respondents who indicated that machines are not easy to use. Passengers who responded ‘usually’ or ‘not’ cited the unreliability of machines, the inability to carry out some transactions which had previously been available at a ticket office, and the confusing range of products available.

The survey responses showed passengers’ frustration at their inability to obtain all products on ticket machines that could previously have been obtained at a ticket office. These products include, but are not limited to: annual season tickets; tickets for future travel; National Rail extensions; and getting refunds of over £10.

Obtaining information

Passengers were asked to list all the ways in which they obtain information in London Underground stations. A significant number of passengers (71% of the London TravelWatch survey and 57% of the GLA Panel survey) said they would seek travel advice and information from staff in stations, which shows the importance of having a staff presence, even for those who are familiar with the network. Amongst GLA Panel respondents, signage was the most used method of obtaining information (70%), making up 49% of London TravelWatch responses.

4% of GLA Panel responses and 6% of the London TravelWatch survey respondents cited Visitor Centres as a place they would

Now	This weekend
Bakerloo	Good Service
Central	Good Service
Circle	Good Service
District	Good Service
H'smith & City	Good Service
Jubilee	Good Service
Metropolitan	Good Service
Northern	Good Service
Piccadilly	Minor Delays
Victoria	Good Service
Waterloo & City	Good Service
Overground	Good Service
TfL Rail	Good Service
DLR	Good Service
Tram	Good Service

More: [Buses](#), [Traffic](#), [River Bus...](#)

Figure 2 Rainbow board used in stations to provide service updates

go to get information. Though the survey does not show why, it is likely that this is because there is generally a low level of awareness of Visitor Centres and the services they provide, as demonstrated in the other research areas.

Staff presence/visibility

23% of London TravelWatch survey respondents and 25% of GLA Panel respondents stated that they always see staff when in London Underground stations. 66% of GLA Panel respondents and 61% of London TravelWatch respondents indicated that they often or sometimes see staff with a further 14% of London TravelWatch respondents and 9% of GLA Panel respondents stating they rarely see staff in stations. The remaining 1-2% of both surveys said they never see staff. This demonstrates an inconsistency in staffing levels across the network.

Safety and security

There were some differences in the responses received from the two surveys relating to safety. This is likely due to the self-selecting nature of the participants in the London TravelWatch survey, as outlined above. The survey showed that 73% of GLA Panel respondents and 47% of London TravelWatch respondents feel roughly as safe in London Underground stations since the changes as they did when the ticket offices were still open.

6% of people responding to the London TravelWatch survey and 8% of the GLA Panel survey indicated that they feel safer in London Underground stations than they did previously. 17% of GLA Panel responses indicated that passengers now feel less safe when on the Underground. This contrasts with 45% of London TravelWatch responses. The remainder of participants stated that they were unsure about how safe they feel.

London TravelWatch survey respondents frequently referenced staff presence as the factor which increases their feelings of safety when in stations. Many respondents noted that although the closure of the ticket offices was supposed to bring more staff out into ticket halls, they do not feel this has been the case at all stations.

3.2 Focus group and passenger findings

Ticketing and ticket offices

Focus groups were centred on what passengers want from London Underground stations. Passengers' primary concerns were not about the loss of the ticket offices, but rather other issues including staff availability and ticketing.

Passengers stated that ticket machines are generally easy to use when carrying out the same/similar transactions. They noted that when staff are near the machines, they are generally very helpful, but that they are not always there to provide assistance.

There was a low level of awareness of the different ticket machine types available on London Underground, and passengers noted that queue times can be lengthened by people who are unsure of which machine to use. When shown the three machine types, passengers highlighted that they had not previously noted the signage above the machines that shows which payment methods can be used at each machine. The participants were generally drawn towards using the Multi-Fare Machines (MFMs), particularly when carrying out an unfamiliar transaction, as they expect them to have the widest range of functionality.

Unreliability of machines was also referenced by passengers at focus groups, as well as the belief that there are not enough machines at some central London locations.

Staffing

Many focus group participants said that stations now feel more disorganised as there is not a focal point where passengers can find staff. Participants tended not to reference the need for a ticket office, but thought that staff should be deployed at clear focal points to be visible to passengers at all times.

Participants noted an inconsistency in availability of staff on stations, stating that outer London locations were less likely to have visible staff than inner ones.

The staff focus group highlighted concerns that they were not always available to assist customers, particularly when working alone at stations, due to the range of tasks they carry out (for example station checks, loading ticket machines and assisting passengers onto trains).

Visitor Centres

There was a low level of awareness of Visitor Centres and the services available at them, even amongst visitors, who are the target audience of the centres.

Part of the focus groups involved informing passengers of the purpose of the Visitor Centres. Passengers felt positively about the idea of a Visitor Centre, but were unsure as to why the specific locations where they are situated had been chosen. The general feeling was that all stations with high numbers of tourists would benefit from a Visitor Centre.

Safety

Focus group participants noted that they generally felt safe when travelling on the London Underground. Staff presence was a key factor in feelings of safety and security for passengers. There were therefore concerns around safety expressed by passengers, particularly those who travel at Local stations.

3.3 TfL data

Ticket machine availability

TfL data showed a decline in ticket machine availability across London Underground stations since the ticket office closures. See Appendices S and T for details of this.

Staff presence, helpfulness and attention to passengers

Appendix H summarises the Customer Satisfaction Survey and Mystery Shopping Survey run by TfL that assess staff presence, staff helpfulness, staff attention to passengers and the overall passenger satisfaction. Since the changes to ticket offices, TfL's overall satisfaction score has remained steady at 85 with staff attention to passengers and staff helpfulness higher than before the changes at 96 and 95 respectively. There has however been a drop in staff presence from 98 to 96.

It is possible that these scores are in part a result of the methodology of the Customer Satisfaction Surveys and Mystery Shopping Surveys. Participants tend to spend up to 30 minutes in stations, meaning they are not experiencing the station as a passenger would. It is therefore possible that passengers see staff and receive assistance less frequently than is noted by TfL. However only five minutes of the time taken to complete the mystery shop is spent in the ticket hall, and staff presence scores are based on this rather than whether staff are seen in the station as a whole.

Data (in Appendix I) shows that Local stations have the highest proportion of instances with no staff presence, which matches the stations that had no staff present during our mystery shopping.

Station closures

Data from TfL shows that since the ticket office closures, there has been a 1 percentage point increase in station closures. Station closures occur when there are insufficient staff members to either open or continue operating the station. The 1% increase represents an average of 21 closures lasting for an average of 30 minutes each every 28 days.

Gateline open times

We analysed the data on times when gatelines (also known as ticket barriers) were left open on Underground stations. This data shows an average of 1 percentage point increase in gatelines being left open, with an increase at Local stations of 3 percentage points. This data backs up the above data showing that the most instances of no staff presence are at Local stations, as staff are required to leave the gateline open when they are not near the ticket barriers.

Lift availability

Lifts on the London Underground are, on average, available for passenger use 98% of the time, with no stations regularly having lifts out of service. Lift availability was assessed as part of the review due to a dip in lift availability in April 2016. This dip appears to have now been resolved.

Contactless payment data

Contactless payment use is increasing. Appendix K shows the use of contactless on rail services operated by TfL having approximately doubled in the last 12 months. This amounts to 31% of pay as you go journeys at Gateway and Destination stations and 23% of pay as you go journeys at Metro and Local stations, as noted in Appendix E.

3.4 Mystery shopping and assisted mystery shopping

Staff presence and assistance

Staff presence was inconsistent on the Underground, with 17% of both assisted and non-assisted mystery shops having no staff visible at one or more stations surveyed. At all stations without visible staff, staff had left the gatelines open to allow passengers to pass through. All instances of no staff visibly present occurred at Local stations. See Appendix A for a list of the stations where no staff were visibly present.

When visible, the highest proportion of staff (46%) were stationed on the gateline, with 20% being near ticket machines to assist customers with transactions on the machines. The remaining 34% were elsewhere on the station, including in station passageways and on platforms.

Staff were seen assisting passengers at just over half of mystery shops (55%). In 26% of cases, staff were seen proactively approaching passengers to ask if they needed assistance. Passengers on the assisted mystery shops explained the

importance of staff approaching passengers, particularly those with hidden disabilities (such as learning difficulties).

All mystery shoppers indicated that staff are not always easy to see when they are present, particularly at busy stations. This was a particular concern for those with visual impairments.

Ticketing

Mystery shops showed that in the majority of cases, queues at ticket machines contained fewer than five passengers and lasted for under two minutes. The three instances of queues of over ten people were in central London at either Gateway or Destination stations which have high footfall, particularly of unfamiliar passengers.

There were several instances noted of ticket machines out of service during mystery shops, with some machines partially out of service (either no change given, or some other functionality missing) and some completely out of service.

All assisted mystery shop participants were freedom pass holders so did not tend to use ticket machines on the network. They expressed concern for passengers that do use machines, particularly those with disabilities, as they felt machines are not necessarily intuitive and that staff are not always on hand to assist.

Information and signage

Mystery shops showed a good level of signage and information in stations (outlined in Appendix A), with both fixed signage and temporary posters present in all mystery shop locations.

Assisted mystery shop participants generally felt that signage in stations was not easily accessible for passengers with disabilities – especially those with visual impairments. They felt that signage was often in too small a font, and sometimes used too many words to convey information.

Help Points

Help points were noted in the ticket halls at 83% of mystery shop stations. TfL state in Appendix E that 99% of Underground stations are now fitted with help points in the ticket hall alone. The fact that 16% were not noticed by mystery shop participants suggests either that the help points were hidden from view by other passengers, or that in some locations, help points are not immediately visible to passengers. See Appendix A for a list of locations where help points were not noted.

Though none of the passengers on assisted mystery shops used help points themselves, they were concerned about whether help point calls were always answered by staff now that there are not ticket offices on the Underground.

Visitor Centres

Five of the stations assessed by mystery shopping had a Visitor Centre. Signage indicating their location was mixed: two of the five were difficult to locate due to poor signage.

All five Visitor Centres were open during the mystery shops. Queue times were generally less than two minutes, with one instance of a queue of ten people, with passengers waiting around five minutes to be served.

Assisted mystery shop participants indicated that they were unaware of Visitor Centres, but felt positively about the idea of them. They felt that there should be more publicity of the centres to increase use.

Safety

Only half of assisted mystery shop participants were comfortable using the London Underground on their own. All stated that staff presence was key to their feelings of safety when travelling on the Underground, and many referenced the need for a focal point in stations where passengers can easily find staff.

Passengers were particularly concerned that staff should be visible at all times, particularly to assist those passengers with mobility and visual impairments. Without staff assistance, they felt the Underground to be unsafe for some passengers with disabilities.

3.5 Summary of correspondence and feedback from stakeholders

Trade Union feedback

London TravelWatch received two submissions from the Rail and Maritime Transport Workers Union (RMT) and one submission from the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) regarding the closure of the ticket offices and accompanying changes made as part of the programme. These submissions are available in Appendices V, W and X. A meeting was also held between London TravelWatch and the RMT at which the RMT expressed their views on the changes. The unions' primary concern expressed to us is the safety of staff and passengers following the ticket office closures due to lower staffing levels and increased instances of lone working. They expressed concern that passengers are unable to carry out all the

ticketing transactions on ticket machines that had been available at ticket offices and that passengers are also unable to obtain information easily on stations due to the changes.

Feedback from disability campaigners

London TravelWatch consulted with Transport for All, who campaign for better travel for disabled people in London. They expressed concerns around staff being available to help disabled passengers, and the loss of a focal point in the form of a ticket office causing difficulty for disabled users of the network. Transport for All also reiterated the concerns of passengers at the focus groups and in survey responses around an insufficient number of London Underground stations being step-free.

TfL's Valuing People Group, a group set up to assist TfL in making transport more accessible for disabled passengers, also submitted feedback as part of the review. This is available in Appendix Y.

Their key point is that although ticket office closures are a good thing in practice as they bring staff out in front of the passenger, in reality there are not enough staff available to provide assistance.

They also noted that staff are not visible enough, especially in busy stations where they may be surrounded by other passengers. This is of particular concern for passengers with visual impairments.

Train operating companies' feedback

Feedback from train operating companies that have interfaces with London Underground (e.g. London Midland at Euston) has shown that they have generally felt little impact on their services since the closure of the London Underground ticket offices. For example, although Govia Thameslink Railway has noted an increased number of enquiries about Oyster at Victoria, it has had no negative impact on queue times at the ticket office there.

However, Virgin Trains West Coast noted that there were some issues with London Underground queries at Euston. In particular, they informed us that passengers who come to Euston to use the Visitor Centre outside opening hours use their information point as an alternative way of getting information about the Underground.

Chiltern Railways have also noted an increase in ticketless travel, especially by freedom pass holders beyond Amersham. Passengers have stated when challenged that this is because they have been unable to purchase the right ticket or extension at London Underground stations.

Metropolitan Police Service feedback

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) took a sample of reported offences within 100m of London Underground stations to determine whether there had been an increase in reported offences since the ticket office closures.

They found that offences in the area around stations were “almost exclusively” unrelated to London Underground ticket office closures.

They did however specify that they do not code specifically for instances of crime related to ticket office closures or changes to ticket halls and that the area looked at around stations may be somewhat arbitrary due to London’s dense geography. They therefore noted that data would be somewhat subjective and cannot be generalised.

4 General findings

4.1 Staffing levels

Passengers value visible staff highly, and the quality of customer service provided by the majority of London Underground staff is excellent. Subject to being able to access all the information and tickets that they need, passengers generally would like to see staff in the ticket hall area rather than exclusively in ticket offices. When staff are more visible and proactively helping passengers, passengers feel safe, secure and satisfied.

There is a need for enough staff to be able to provide this level of service consistently, and when this happens, passenger satisfaction scores are high. Since ticket office closures on London Underground stations, TfL's overall satisfaction score has remained steady at 85, with staff attention to customers and staff helpfulness higher than before the changes at 96 and 95 respectively. There has however been a drop in staff presence from 98 to 96. Appendix G, Customer Impact Review has a full breakdown of scores from TfL's Customer Satisfaction Survey and Mystery Shopping Survey.

Any alterations to staffing levels and rostering arrangements will be based on a separate review that is due to take place between London Underground and the trade unions.

4.2 Reopening ticket offices

London TravelWatch feels that the closure of ticket offices may have been premature, in that the ticket machines currently at stations are neither flexible nor reliable enough to perform all the functions that ticket offices previously performed. However, we do not believe that there would be a passenger benefit in reopening ticket offices at this time because, subject to implementation of changes recommended in this report, the new system can represent an improvement for passengers. There is a clear benefit to passengers in staff being proactive and visible in the ticket halls, and subject to them being able to help passengers purchase any ticket they reasonably require from the machines, there would be less need for ticket offices. We also note there is a gradual shift taking place in transactions on the London Underground, with payment methods that do not require ticket offices/machines increasing – e.g. contactless payment.

However, a focal point in stations where passengers can get assistance and enough staff to perform their duties consistently are crucial for stations to work for passengers. Our view that there is not a need to reopen ticket offices is therefore based on the assumption that recommended changes would be implemented. Issues

such as reliability and functionality of machines were highlighted as needing improvement prior to the ticket offices being closed.

Our research 'Passengers' ticket purchasing and journey experiences' published in 2013 showed that passengers would prefer to see staff out in ticket halls subject to them being able to go behind a ticket office window to sell tickets. However, although it is clear that the most efficient way of selling tickets is at a ticket office, staff on the London Underground are most beneficial to passengers out in ticket halls in a multi-functional capacity. We therefore feel that the current system can continue subject to our recommendations being implemented.

4.3 Gateline and lift unavailability and station closures

There does not appear to be a widespread problem related to station closures (instances where there are not enough staff available to have the station open and therefore the station has to close) or gatelines and lifts which are frequently out of service. However, some stations have higher frequencies of gatelines being left open than others. This is outlined in Appendix S. There has been a 1 percentage point increase in station closures since the changes were brought in, but this represents an average of 21 closures lasting for 30 minutes each over a four week period. This is something for TfL to monitor going forward. Attention should be paid to minimise the amount of time these facilities are not in use, but we are not making any specific recommendation based on this.

4.4 General commuters making regular journeys

For many passengers who make the same journey regularly (i.e. for commuting), there is little need for any interaction with ticket purchasing facilities. These passengers tend to only look for staff assistance in the event of service disruption or a problem with their Oyster/contactless payment. They have therefore felt little or no impact from the changes made. However, focus groups have shown that annual season ticket holders feel aggrieved by the inability to purchase their season tickets at ticket machines.

4.5 Staff conduct

We have both seen and had reported a large amount of comments on individual members of staff, both positive and negative. We do not make any recommendations on staff conduct in particular, only that we would like to see positive contributions to passengers' journey experiences incentivised and consistent customer service on the Underground.

5 Our Assessment

5.1 Lack of visible staff

Many stations presently operate with just one member of staff for some or all of the day. Passengers are experiencing a number of challenges at these stations, in particular passengers who require extra assistance. When the member of staff is required to perform any action that takes them away from the ticket hall, such as assisting mobility impaired passengers to the platform, the gateline is left open, there is no assistance for any other passenger, and the station is effectively unstaffed during that period.

Staff are required to perform a large number of duties in the course of a shift, and some of these are of vital importance to passengers. During a shift, staff can be required to answer help point calls, assist passengers, help at ticket machines, monitor the gateline and carry out other tasks where necessary. Passengers using stations with only one member of staff are experiencing problems in consistently getting the level of service they can reasonably expect.

The lack of visible staff has implications for passenger feelings of safety. Across our research, passengers cited being able to see staff as fundamental to their feelings of safety when using the Underground.

When working alone on stations, staff are having to perform multiple tasks at once (for example, completing station checks, assisting passengers onto platforms and operating the gateline). There are occasions where staff have become stressed and have consequently not provided the level of customer service that they would have wished to. This means that in some cases, passengers are not receiving the high level of customer service that they expect.

Staff should be deployed on stations so that they are visible to passengers, and therefore able to assist passengers where necessary.



Figure 3 - Gateline left open at Buckhurst Hill, 26th October 2016

5.2 Safety and Security

A number of passengers (around 40% across both surveys combined) informed us that feel less safe in stations than they did when there was a ticket office. A number of factors influence this, including the lack of a focal point in the station where passengers can find staff, the frequency with which passengers do not see staff in stations, and a feel of confusion and chaos in stations, particularly those with high footfall and high numbers of tourists. At these locations, passengers note that staff are sometimes surrounded by groups of people requiring assistance, adding to the sense of chaos. Lack of visible staff is the most common reason for passengers feeling less safe when in stations, especially at night, with 63% of overall survey respondents (when combining the two surveys) noting that staff presence makes them feel safer.

In addition, passengers are not necessarily aware where stations are controlled from. Some believe that control was carried out from a ticket office, and therefore feel that stations lost the function dedicated to control with the closure of the ticket offices. This adds to their feelings of stations as chaotic and disordered.

To increase passenger feelings of safety in stations, staff should be located so as to be visible and approachable. Staff should also look to proactively offer assistance to passengers where possible.

5.3 Lack of focal point

Passengers inform us that there is confusion about where to find staff in stations. At many stations, especially smaller ones, passengers viewed the ticket office as the control point for the station, and would go to the ticket office for any assistance. With the new operating system, passengers are more unsure of where to go to get the information or assistance they need, stations can feel chaotic without an organised queuing system, staff members are not always in the same place each day and if not immediately visible, stations can appear unstaffed.

For some passengers, inconsistency in the locations of staff within stations can cause problems. Passengers expressed that some stations have a chaotic or disorderly look, and that this appearance of disorganisation has left them feeling less secure when travelling, and less confident about getting assistance when using the network.

Passengers need staff to be available to assist them, and the ticket machines are a key point in any station where assistance is required. With the current ticket machines not able to provide a full range of tickets for passengers, staff are especially needed to provide additional functionality or advice.

In small stations, one member of staff to monitor both gateline and ticket machines may be appropriate, but where more staff are available, both areas need to be covered separately. Generally, ticket machines are near the station entrance, and could be used to provide the necessary focal point where passengers can always go to find their initial assistance.

All stations should have a focal point where staff should be located to enable passengers to find them when assistance is needed.



Figure 4 - Passengers queuing to use machines at King's Cross St. Pancras

5.4 Passengers requiring additional assistance

The turn up and go procedure for passengers who require additional assistance is now more difficult.³ With ticket offices, it was common practice that when a passenger who required assistance turned up at a station, the ticket office would ring the station(s) that the passenger was going to/through to confirm what time the assistance was required. Without ticket offices, the process is much more difficult for staff, and can break down. Station staff are now required to ring the line controller, who is often busy with operational matters, to ask them to ring the other station(s) to confirm arrangements. Without being able to phone a ticket office, it is harder to find the right person at the station, and passengers are reporting frequent issues where their assistance is not ready for them on their arrival at their destination.

Passengers who require assistance at an interchange, such as between the two separate Hammersmith stations, have reported that station staff are not always able

³ This is the procedure by which passengers requiring assistance can arrive in a London Underground station and be helped with their journey (e.g. onto a train) without pre-booking assistance.

to assist them, and either advise as to the best walking route, or leave the assistance to members of the public.

Assistance should be consistently available, with staff helping passengers have smooth interchanges (for example at stations which interface with National Rail).

5.5 Visibility of staff uniforms

Compounding the challenge for passengers to work out where to get their assistance at stations, the uniforms worn by staff are a dark blue colour and do not stand out, meaning it is often difficult to spot staff in busier stations. For visually impaired passengers needing assistance, this is a critical problem.

Staff should be clearly visible in the ticket hall, enabling passengers to receive assistance from them, and also increasing passenger feelings of safety. This could be by a change to the current uniform, with staff wearing brighter colours that are easily identifiable by passengers and at some of the busiest locations, passengers would benefit from staff wearing high visibility jackets.

Any adjustments made to staff uniforms should include pockets which are sufficiently large enough to hold the iPads that have been issued to all station staff. This will prevent staff from holding their iPads, which can make passengers feel uncomfortable in approaching them as they feel staff are busy.

5.6 Avoid grouping of staff where possible

When passengers require assistance, our research has shown they can be put off by a cluster of staff standing together. It is obviously reasonable for staff to communicate, and when not assisting passengers they should not be restricted from talking to each other.

Staff should always be proactively looking for passengers who may require assistance, and make sure they are as approachable as possible to passengers.

5.7 Staff local knowledge

Staff now work at more locations than was previously the case, and can be rostered to work at some stations very infrequently. This has led to a loss in local knowledge, particularly in relation to advising passengers about local amenities or onward journey advice at interchanges.

Staff should be required to work at as few locations as possible to allow them to develop local knowledge.

Staff should use their handheld devices, where appropriate, to provide customers with information about their onward journeys.

5.8 Ticket machines

Passengers prefer to use the larger machines, which can take cash and perform a number of functions that the smaller machines cannot. There is a widespread understanding that these machines are the ones to use for anything other than basic Oyster top-ups, and passengers wait for them to be available. This adds to confusion when queuing, and staff should proactively advise passengers in the queue as to which machine to use for their transaction and payment type.

Survey responses, mystery shopping and information from TfL showed that ticket machines on the London Underground break down too often, either fully or partially, and repairs take a long time to action. There has been a small reduction in average machine availability since the closure of the ticket offices, in part due to the increased use of machines.

Multi-fare machines (MFMs), which accept notes, coins and cards, are the machines which are suffering from the most problems. When shown the different types of machine at focus groups, passengers said they would prefer to use the MFMs as they are the largest, most prominent, machines which have the biggest range of functionality.

It was clear from research carried out that many passengers are unaware of the services available and methods of payment accepted at different types of ticket machines.

With regards to using ticket machines, many passengers are unsure:

- if they have got the right ticket,
- which machine to use,
- where to get help,
- how stations are staffed, and
- what can or can't be done online, at Visitor Centres or at stations

In some locations, staff have added to the existing signage on ticket machines to make the payment methods accepted at different machine types clearer to passengers.



Figure 5 - Signage added to machines at King's Cross St. Pancras

Improvements which should be made to ticket machines to make them easier to use include:

- clearer graphics above ticket machines (indicating payment methods accepted at each machine type)
- better signage detailing where to go for assistance at stations,
- posters detailing alternative places to get tickets or information,
- clear areas for information or where staff will usually be situated and
- staff being deployed where passengers need them most

TfL should make clear to passengers the different ticketing functionalities available to them on the different machines. In doing so, they would enable customers to self-serve more easily, thereby reducing queue times and enabling staff to assist passengers elsewhere.

These will all assist in meaning that stations operate more smoothly, with less delays and a better process for both staff and passengers.

5.9 Tasks previously carried out at ticket offices

There are a number of specific tasks that used to be performed within the ticket office, that are not performed as well without a ticket office. These include a number of ticket machine functions, such as:

- selling tickets to many National Rail destinations,
- buying extension tickets,
- buying tickets for travel on a later day,

- buying annual season tickets, and
- when and how much a refund on an Oyster card can be applied.

As a result of the ticket office closures, there are now some gaps in ticketing at London Underground stations. For example, passengers cannot always purchase tickets to National Rail stations, especially extension tickets from the boundary of a Travelcard or Freedom pass validity area. Staff in ticket offices used to be able to look up the correct fare and issue a ticket; this functionality is not possible with ticket machines. This loss in functionality means passengers are often required to buy more expensive tickets to make their journey, or go out of their way to use other means of purchasing tickets. National Rail operators have informed us that there has been an increase in ticketless travel along certain routes as passengers have been unable to be issued with the correct ticket at the start of their journey. **Extension tickets should therefore be available from ticket machines.**

Staff in London Underground ticket offices were able to issue tickets for travel on days later in the week. This is not possible with ticket machines and is therefore a problem for passengers who wish to buy their tickets in advance.

Passengers should be able to purchase tickets for future travel. This could also help reduce queue times at machines, as passengers could purchase tickets at less busy times of the day.

Oyster top ups of any amount should be made available on machines to allow passengers to pay for the journey or journeys they will be making without putting excess money on their Oyster.

Oyster journey history printouts should also be available on machines so that passengers who do not have access to online accounts to view journey history can have a paper record of their journeys, as was the case at a ticket office.

5.10 Availability of annual season tickets on ticket machines

Passengers who wish to purchase an annual season ticket used to do so at ticket offices. They are now only able to do this online, which does not suit everyone, or from a Visitor Centre or London Overground ticket office if these are located conveniently for them. Passengers who buy these tickets told us they are wary of spending a very large amount of money via a web based transaction, because of the fear of fraud and abuse of their credit or debit cards. At the focus groups, passengers buying such annual season tickets felt particularly hard done by and inconvenienced by the closure of ticket offices, given the cost of their tickets. They felt that their needs had been neglected in the process of closing ticket offices.

Passengers should have the ability to purchase annual season tickets at stations for immediate usage. Ticket machines should be updated to sell annual season tickets and associated Gold cards with staff authorisation to reduce the risk of fraudulent use of credit or debit cards.

5.11 Removal of 48 hour restriction on Oyster refunds

Passengers currently have to wait 48 hours from purchasing an Oyster card before being able to get back their deposit and any remaining balance on the card. This does not represent good customer service especially for visitors to London who are only here for a short period of time.

It should be possible for customers to get a refund on their Oyster card whenever required.

5.12 Help points

At stations with fully staffed control rooms (around 35 stations), help point information calls should always be answered by staff in the station control rooms. At a further 52 stations help point information calls are routed to the TfL Contact Centre. However, at the remaining stations, calls from help points ring in the station office and are only answered if a staff member is present there. This represents a reduced level of customer service, as staff may be elsewhere on the station, meaning the likelihood of calls going unanswered has increased.

With the exception of the 52 stations where emergency calls direct to the London Underground Control Centre, help point emergency calls ring first in the control room or station office before being routed to the British Transport Police (BTP) if unanswered.



Figure 4 A London Underground help point

All help point calls should be routed to the TfL Contact Centre and all emergency calls should be routed to the British Transport Police. CCTV at help points should be live monitored by the TfL Contact Centre. This will enable passengers to receive assistance even if station staff are having to carry out activities elsewhere on the station.

5.13 Hearing loops

Ticket offices provided a hearing loop function. Without the ticket office, passengers who have difficulty hearing struggle with background noise when communicating with station staff.

Stations should have designated hearing loop points at focal points, information zones and at help points. These should be well signposted to allow passengers with hearing difficulties to locate them easily.

5.14 Visitor Centres

There is a low level of awareness of Visitor Centres amongst London Underground users. Passengers indicated they would be more likely to use the Visitor Centres if their purpose and the types of customer who can use them were clearer.

Another issue arising relating to Visitor Centres was how easy they are to find in stations. Mystery shopping highlighted that Visitor Centres are not always well signposted within London Underground stations.

Although Visitor Centres are primarily aimed at tourists, many passengers living in London could also benefit from the services they offer.

TfL states that Visitor Centre core opening hours are from 8am-6pm. This means that passengers looking for assistance in the evenings are unable to get it from a Visitor Centre. Some train operators, including Virgin at Euston, have informed us that they have seen an increase in passengers asking for assistance relating to travel on the Underground outside Visitor Centre opening hours.

Levels of publicity relating to the Visitor Centres should be increased, informing passengers of their presence and the services available at them.

In order to make Visitor Centres as accessible as possible, there should be comprehensive signage indicating how to reach the Visitor Centre. This is particularly necessary at stations where the Visitor Centre is not located within the London Underground station.

TfL should reconsider the name 'Visitor Centre' to reflect the fact that a wider audience can use them to obtain information and tickets.

The opening hours of Visitor Centres should be extended, so that passengers arriving in London in the evenings can get assistance.

5.15 Summary of recommendations

1. Staff should be visible in stations and available to assist passengers
2. Staff should also be visible as their presence is of fundamental importance to passenger feelings of safety
3. There should be a focal point in stations where passengers can find staff
4. Assistance should be consistently available, which is particularly important for passengers with disabilities, or unfamiliar users of the network
5. Uniforms should be improved to increase staff visibility
6. Staff should avoid grouping together where possible, and always be proactively looking for passengers who require assistance
7. Staff should have local knowledge of stations at which they work, and should use their iPads to assist passengers with onward journeys where necessary
8. Signage on ticket machines should be updated, and passengers informed of the different functions available at the different machine types.
9. Ticket machines should be updated to provide a wider range of functionality
10. Annual season tickets should be made available on ticket machines
11. The 48 hour restriction on Oyster card refunds should be lifted
12. Help point routing procedures should be consistent to ensure that calls are always answered
13. Hearing loops should be available and clearly signposted in stations
14. Visitor Centre messaging, branding and opening hours should be adjusted to increase usage

6 Conclusions

The closure of the ticket offices and associated changes made to London Underground stations can be beneficial to passengers. This is dependent upon the changes outlined above being implemented by TfL.

Passengers in this research have generally not called for ticket offices to be reopened, but have consistently referenced the need to have visible staff in stations to provide assistance and increase feelings of safety. At present, there are inconsistencies on the network, with passengers not always able to find staff when they need them. Our research has shown that this is in part due to staff not actually being in the ticket hall (potentially as they have been called away to deal with incidents elsewhere) and in part due to the difficulty passengers have in seeing staff in busy stations due to the darkly coloured uniforms.

Staff presence is also fundamental to passenger feelings of safety when travelling on the Underground. Even when they do not require assistance, passengers feel reassured when they can see staff in stations.

The primary way in which TfL can ensure staff are consistently visible on the Underground is by introducing a focal point in stations where staff can be located. This would be of particular benefit at busy stations, where passengers have referenced a feel of chaos or disorder due to high volumes of people and a lack of clear direction on where to get assistance. Focal points will have to be in different places at different locations, but it must be clear for passengers entering the station where to go to find the focal point.

Another key area for improvement is increasing the range of transactions that can be carried out on ticket machines. It is necessary for ticket machines to provide some of the products that were previously available at ticket offices, such as annual season tickets and tickets for future travel.

In addition, it is important that passengers are made aware of what they can and cannot do in stations, including payment methods available to them, and products or services available at ticket machines and Visitor Centres. In doing so, TfL can help passengers feel confident about using self-service facilities in stations, which may in turn help to reduce some of the pressure on staff which was highlighted during our research.

7 Glossary

BTP – British Transport Police

DLR – Docklands Light Railway

GLA – Greater London Authority

LU – London Underground

MFM – Multi-Fare Machine

MPS – Metropolitan Police Service

PAYG – Pay As You Go

RMT – Rail and Maritime Transport Workers Union

TfL – Transport for London

TSSA - Transport Salaried Staffs' Association

8 Appendices

The table below outlines which appendices form part of this report and which can be found on the London TravelWatch website.

Letter	Appendix Title	Origin	Location
A.	Research summary	London TravelWatch	Report
B.	Talk London Panel survey summary	GLA	Report
C.	Focus group and passenger intercept summary	2CV	Report
D.	List of stakeholders contacted regarding the review	London TravelWatch	London TravelWatch website
E.	Customer Impact Review	TfL	London TravelWatch website
F.	Supporting table of information	TfL	London TravelWatch website
G.	Stakeholder and customer engagement summary	TfL	London TravelWatch website
H.	Evidence datasets	TfL	London TravelWatch website
I.	Staff presence data	TfL	London TravelWatch website
J.	Lift availability data	TfL	London TravelWatch website
K.	Pay as you go and contactless data	TfL	London TravelWatch website
L.	King's Cross case study	TfL	London TravelWatch website
M.	Improving London Underground leaflet	TfL	London TravelWatch website
N.	Staff leaflet – changes to ticket halls	TfL	London TravelWatch website
O.	Ticketing changes guide for iPads	TfL	London TravelWatch website
P.	Stakeholder bulletin	TfL	London TravelWatch website
Q.	Station closures arising from staff shortages	TfL	London TravelWatch website
R.	Open gateline data	TfL	London TravelWatch website
S.	Help point procedures	TfL	London TravelWatch website
T.	Ticket machine availability data	TfL	London TravelWatch website
U.	Weightings for ticket machine availability data	TfL	London TravelWatch website
V.	RMT Submission 1	RMT	London TravelWatch website
W.	RMT Submission 2	RMT	London TravelWatch website
X.	TSSA Submission	TSSA	London TravelWatch website
Y.	Valuing People Group feedback	TfL Valuing People Group	London TravelWatch website
Z.	Sample letter sent to consultees	London TravelWatch	London TravelWatch website
AA.	Stations excluded from this review	London TravelWatch	London TravelWatch website

Appendix A – London TravelWatch research summary

A review of ticket office closures
on the London Underground

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT

1 Survey summary

London TravelWatch prepared a survey using the Survey Monkey website that aimed to assess passengers' feelings about the ticket office closures and associated changes to passenger service on London Underground. The survey was open for a four-week period from Monday 12th September 2016, in which time a total of **4,396** responses were received. The London TravelWatch survey was supplemented by a survey conducted by the Greater London Authority (GLA), and filled in by GLA Talk London Panel members. A summary of this can be found in Appendix C.

The link to the survey was provided to the public through the following platforms:

- On the London TravelWatch website
- Tweets by London TravelWatch
- On posters displayed in London Underground stations for the duration of the review period
- Via emails sent by TfL to a selection of passengers on their mailing list

Demographics

This section summarises the age, gender and ethnicity of the survey participants, as well as whether participants have a disability. These questions were all optional; the breakdown of how many participants responded to each question is also included below. The reason for gathering this data was to establish whether particular groups have felt more affected by the changes than others.

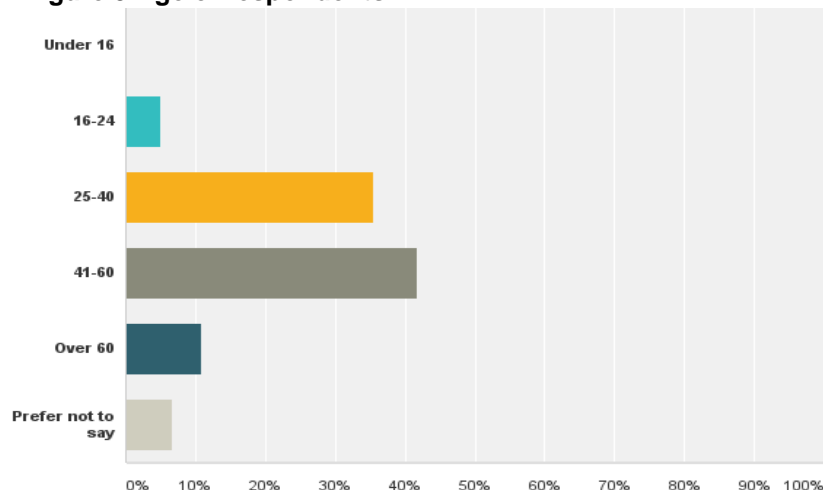
Gender

56% of participants were male and 37% were female. The remaining 7% of respondents chose not to specify.

Age

The chart below shows the age of the participants in the survey. 41-60 year olds made up the highest proportion of responses (42%), followed by 25-40 year olds (36%).

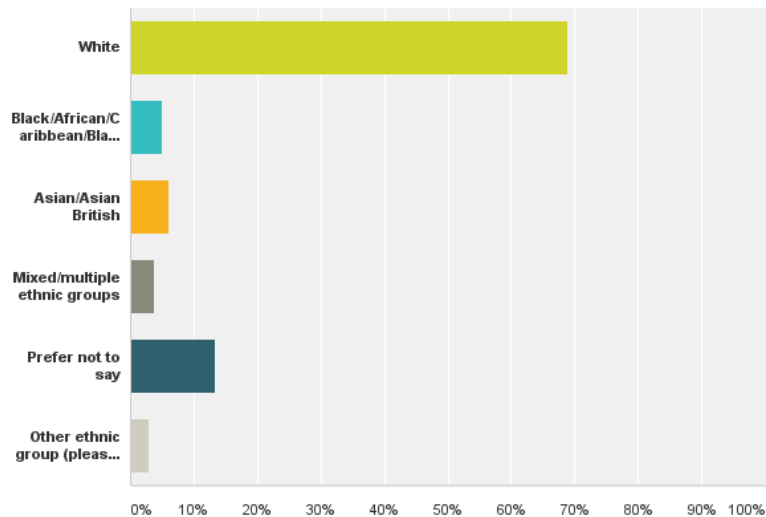
Figure 5 Age of respondents



Ethnicity

A significant proportion of responses received were from participants who would class themselves as being white (68%). This is notable, as it does not resemble the ethnic spread of people living in London, roughly 45% of whom are white.⁴

Figure 6 Ethnicity of respondents



Disability

8% of participants stated that they have a disability. Of those who chose to disclose the nature of their disability, there were a range of both hidden and visible impairments. This was of importance to London TravelWatch, as a key part of the review has been assessing whether the passenger service available to disabled passengers has changed since the closure of the ticket offices and whether there are any areas which could be improved upon by London Underground to facilitate journeys by disabled passengers.

⁴ 2011 Census data

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-data-catalogue/index.html>

Main findings

Stations referenced

Every one of the 260 stations on the London Underground network was referenced at least once by respondents as being one of the stations they used most frequently. The most frequently referenced stations were as follows:

- King’s Cross St. Pancras – 623 times – 14% of respondents
- Victoria – 483 times – 11% of respondents
- Oxford Circus – 419 times – 9.5% of respondents
- Waterloo – 404 times – 9% of respondents
- Bank – 404 times – 9% of respondents

Respondents were asked to list which stations they used most frequently, and were permitted to list as many stations as they wanted. The fact that the most frequently referenced station was only used by 14% of respondents demonstrates that there was a wide spread of responses across all stations on the network.

Types of journey

The graphs below highlight the types of journey made most often by the respondents to the survey and the frequency of use of the network.

Figure 7 Main journey type

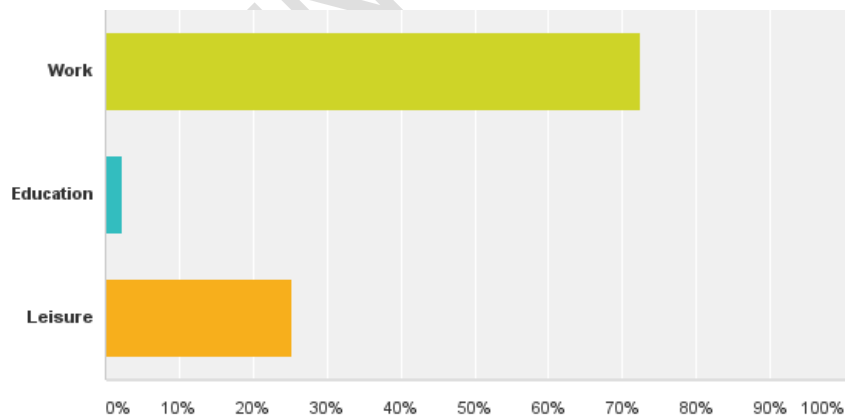


Figure 8 Frequency of London Underground use

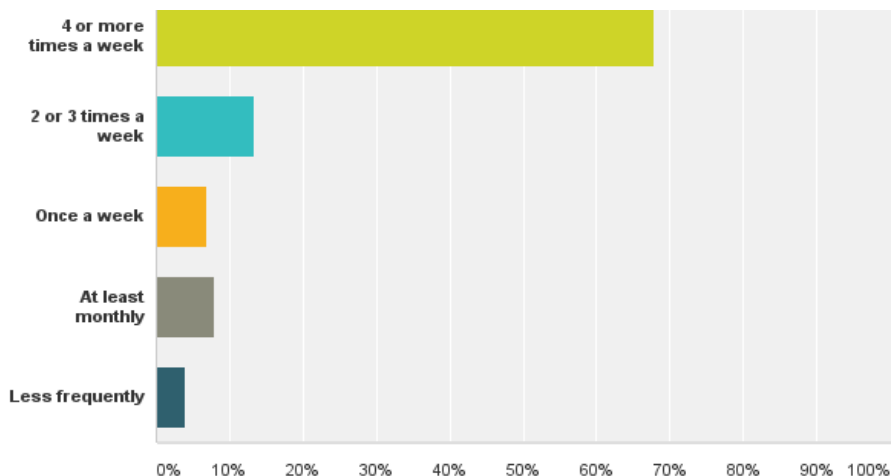


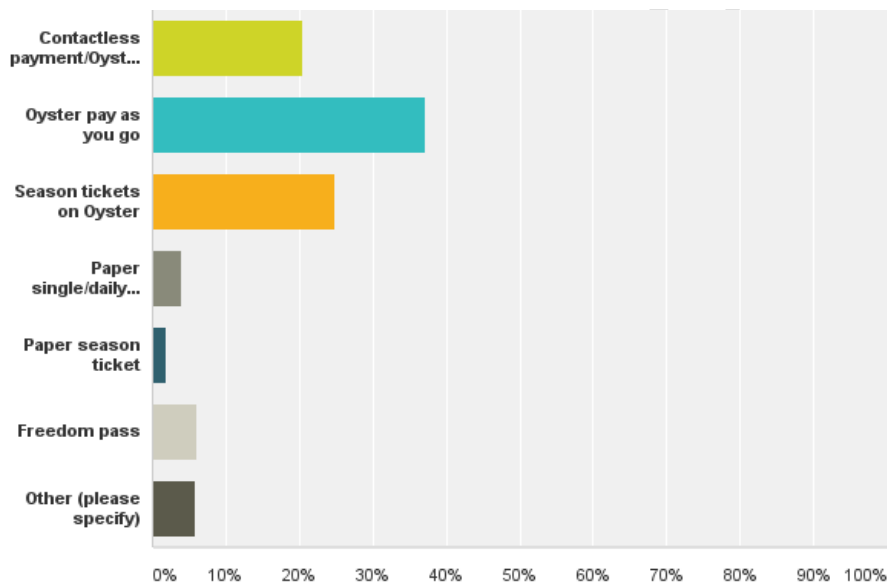
Figure 4 shows that the majority of respondents use the network primarily to travel to and from work (72%) and that well over half use the Underground four or more times a week (68%). An examination of these two elements together showed that 60% of people who completed the survey use the London Underground primarily for work **and** four or more times a week. From this we can infer that 60% of respondents are familiar users of the network, meaning they are generally less likely to require regular assistance at stations.

Purchasing tickets for travel

Methods of payment

The graph below shows the breakdown of the types of payment used by survey respondents.

Figure 9 Methods of payment

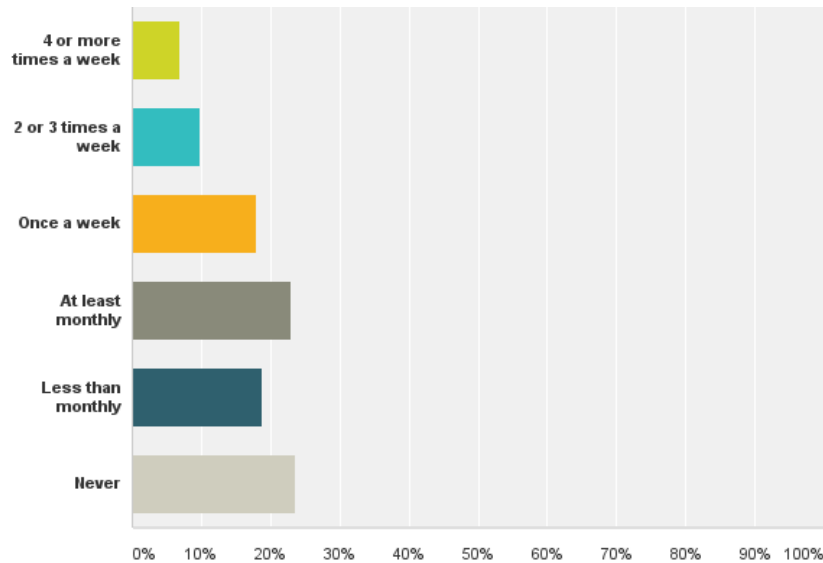


Payments using Oyster and/or contactless payment are shown to be the most popular amongst survey respondents. Again, this is likely to be because a significant proportion of people who completed the survey use the London Underground regularly for travelling to and from work.

Of those who specified 'Other' ways in which they pay for their travel, almost 50% (around 2% of respondents in total) stated that they use a Staff Oyster, a complimentary travel card provided by TfL to their staff members and one family member.

Purchasing tickets at London Underground stations

Figure 10 How often respondents purchase tickets at London

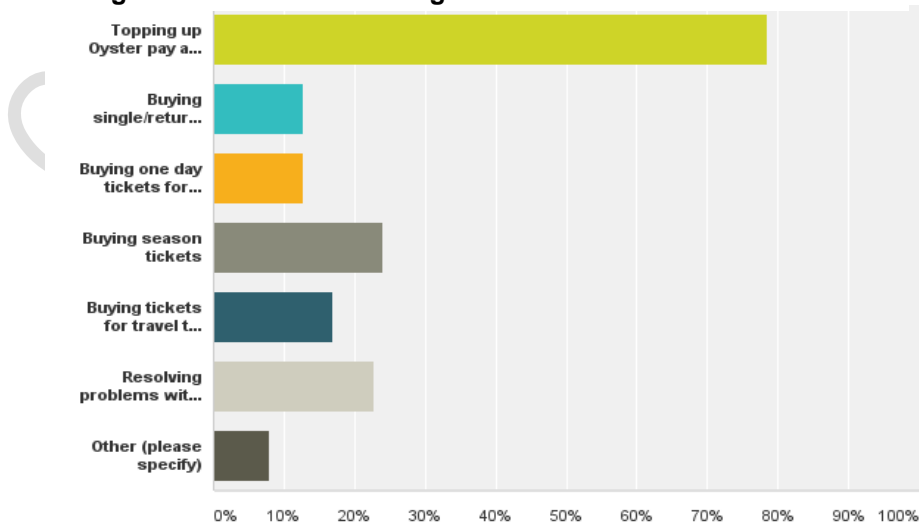


The above graph highlights how often respondents top up their Oyster card or purchase tickets for travel at London Underground stations. The most common response was 'Never' (24%), closely followed by 'At least monthly' (23%) and 'Less than monthly' (19%). The fact that 66% of survey participants purchase tickets at stations either infrequently or never corresponds with the high number of passengers who use Oyster related products and contactless.

Ticket machines

73% of participants stated that they do use London Underground ticket machines. Figure 7 below is a breakdown of the types of transaction undertaken by passengers on these ticket machines.

Figure 11 Reasons for using ticket machines

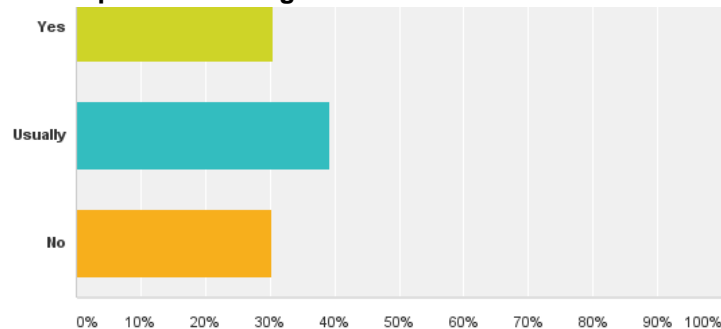


The fact that topping up an Oyster card is the most common type of transaction undertaken (78%) corresponds with the above data concerning the way in which passengers pay for travel.

Responses in the 'Other' category included checking journey history and adding Railcard discounts to Oyster cards (e.g. Senior Railcard or 16-25 Railcard).

The graph below shows the spread of responses relating to whether passengers find ticket machines in London Underground stations easy to use.

Figure 12 Responses relating to whether ticket machines are



The graph shows a fairly even spread of responses. Respondents were then asked to state why they had chosen the response they did. Responses included:

- **Yes** – options are clearly displayed
- **Usually** – ticket machines are easy to use for simple transactions, or ones which passengers carry out regularly. Atypical transactions can be complex.
- **No** – ticket machines are unreliable

Services unavailable at ticket machines

Question 11 of the survey asked participants to list any services which they have been unable to get from ticket machines. Common responses included:

- Purchasing an Annual Season Ticket
- Resolving problems with Oyster cards
- Being unable to obtain refunds on Oyster over the value of £10
- Information about travel or ticket types

Obtaining information

Figure 13 Where passengers obtain information in stations

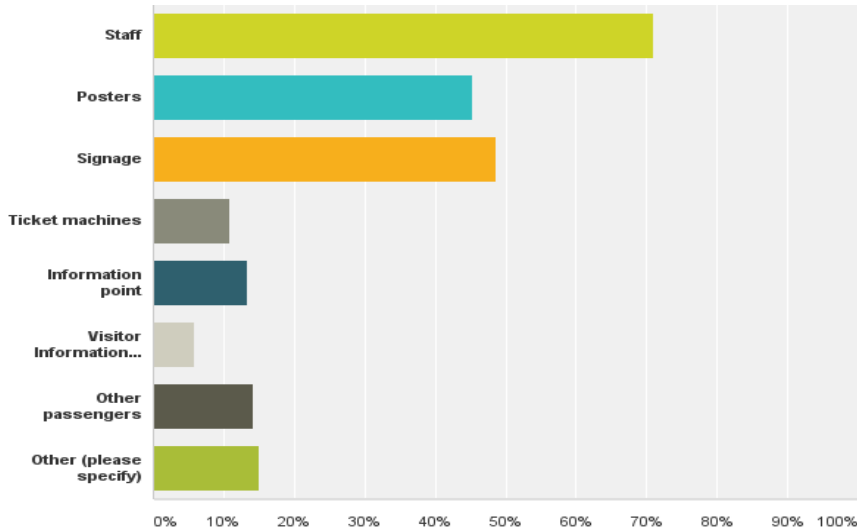


Figure 9 above shows that over 70% of survey participants stated that they look to staff to provide them with information in stations, thereby highlighting the importance of all London Underground stations being manned at all times of the day.

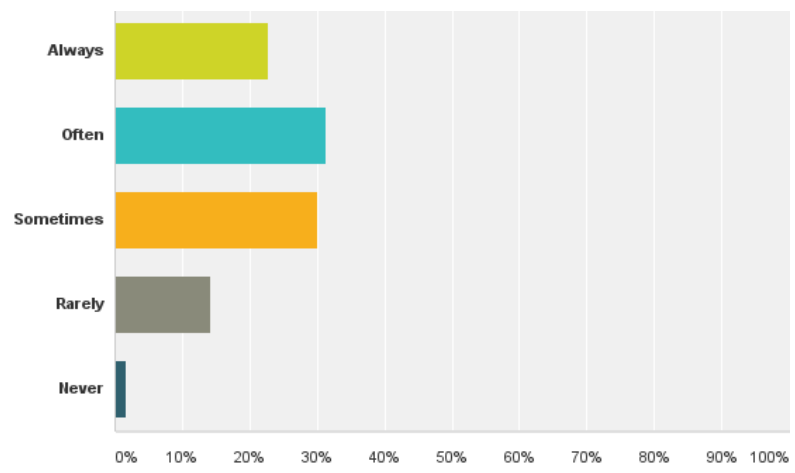
Signage and posters were also popular responses (49% and 45% respectively), which may be linked to the fact that the majority of respondents are regular network users.

The least common response selected was Visitor Centres (6%). This correlates with other research carried out as part of the review, which has shown that there is a low level of knowledge of what Visitor Centres are and the types of products available at them. It is also likely that a significant proportion of respondents are regular users who predominantly use the Underground to commute to work, they are not likely to seek help at a Visitor Centre.

Staff

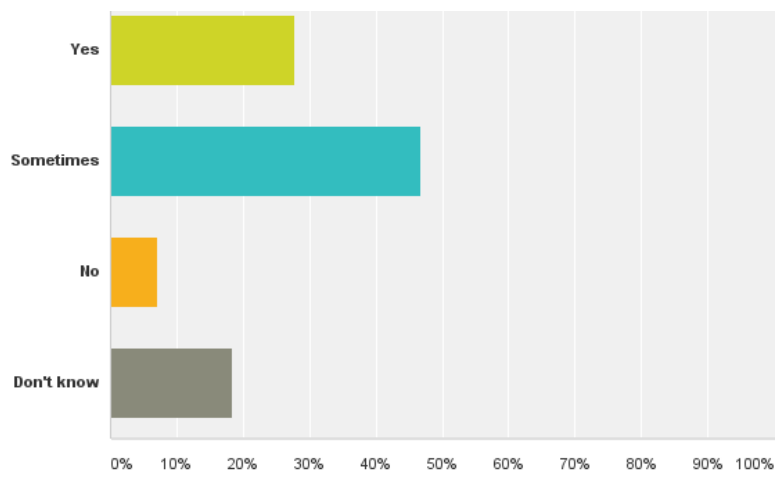
Figure 10 below outlines how often passengers filling in the survey see staff in stations. As passengers highlighted elsewhere in the survey that they tend to look to staff for assistance, it is important that staff are visible to provide this assistance.

Figure 14 How often passengers notice staff in stations



23% of respondents stated that they 'Always' notice staff in stations, with 61% in total stating that they see staff either 'Often' or 'Sometimes'. The remaining 16% stated that they 'Rarely' or 'Never' see staff. This varies on a station-by-station basis, and when examined in conjunction with mystery shops on the network, the results show that stations in outer London tend to be the ones with fewer visible staff. Busy inner London stations, such as King's Cross St. Pancras, are more likely to have visible staff throughout the day – though again this may vary.

Figure 15 Responses relating to whether assistance is available from staff



The above graph shows that respondents feel there is an inconsistent level of assistance available from staff on the London Underground. While 28% felt they could conclusively say that assistance is available, 65% responded either that assistance is available sometimes or that they didn't know. The remaining 7% felt that assistance is not available.

When asked to qualify their responses, respondents gave a range of answers, including:

- “I see staff helping people all the time.”
- “Never had any problems getting assistance when required.”
- “Sometimes very hard to find staff.”
- “Some barriers are open and no staff are visible.”

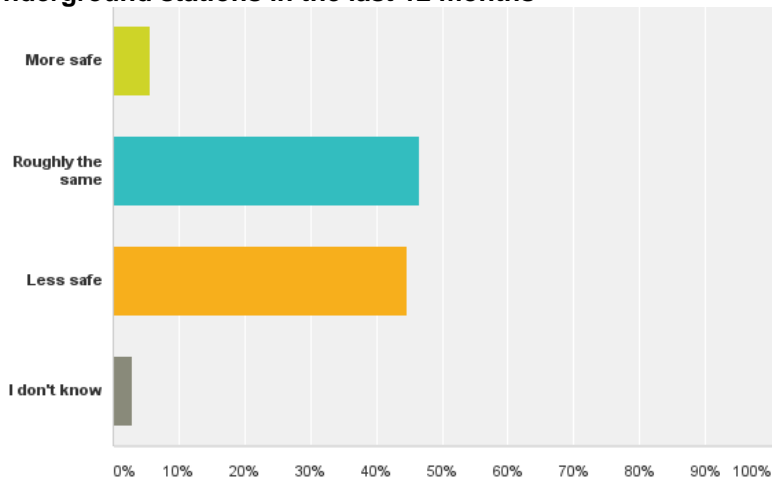
This range of responses corresponds with the data in figure 10 relating to staff presence. It appears there is a lack of consistency across the network with regards to staff being present and proactively assisting passengers, meaning some passengers have positive experiences while others are not receiving the assistance they need.

Availability of staff is particularly important for passengers who require additional assistance – for example, passengers with disabilities or passengers who are unfamiliar with the network. Of the survey respondents, a third stated that they have required extra assistance with travel in the last 12 months.

Safety

Participants were asked to assess how safe they feel when travelling on the tube, as well as to provide any feedback on how London Underground could improve safety.

Figure 16 Levels of safety of respondents in London Underground stations in the last 12 months



Passengers were asked to compare their feelings of safety today with 12 months ago, in order to compare feelings of safety pre- and post-ticket office closures. 47% of respondents stated they felt roughly as safe at stations when compared with 12 months ago. 45% of responses were in the ‘Less Safe’ category and only 6% of participants stated that they feel safer on the Underground now.

The primary response given when asked what could be done to improve safety in stations concerned the presence and availability of staff (63% of responses), which links with earlier responses around staff being present and available to help passengers. Staff presence late at night or at quieter stations was of particular concern.

Around 25% of responses referenced presence of a ticket office of some sort as improving feelings of safety on the Underground.

General comments

Participants were finally asked to give general comments on the ticket office closures and customer service in ticket halls.

Responses were varied, but some key themes were:

- When staff are present in the ticket halls, passengers tend to have positive experiences.
- There is inconsistency in the availability of staff on the network.
- Improvements should be made to ticket machines to reduce queues and make it easier for passengers to purchase the right ticket.
- Respondents often show more concern for unfamiliar users of the network than for themselves.

2 GLA Talk London Panel survey

The Greater London Authority (GLA) set up the Talk London Panel as a forum for Londoners to discuss issues affecting the capital. A survey was sent to Panel members as part of the ticket office closure review and was filled in by **929** respondents. A full summary of this can be found in Appendix B. The key themes arising from this survey are outlined below.

Distinction between the two surveys

Due to the nature of selection of respondents, there are differences in feedback received from the two surveys. Talk London Panel members were directly sent the survey by the GLA, so responses received were from those who were voluntarily providing feedback. The London TravelWatch survey was available to all members of the public, with passengers following a link to the survey online. Respondents to the London TravelWatch survey were therefore self-selecting, increasing the likelihood that they would only fill in the survey if they had a specific comment to make on the ticket office closures.

Unlike the London TravelWatch survey, the GLA Panel survey did not provide comment boxes, so results are all based on multiple choice questions.

Summary

Journey type and frequency

The main journey type of respondents to the GLA Panel survey was more split than that of the London TravelWatch one, with 52% of participants travelling primarily for work, and 45% travelling primarily for leisure. The remaining 3% travelled for education or other reasons.

84% of respondents travel on the Underground at least once a week, with 43% travelling for or more times a week, meaning it is reasonable to assume that the majority of respondents are familiar users of the network.

Payment methods

36% of respondents use contactless payment, with a further 22% using Oyster pay-as-you-go. 18% of the respondents were also Freedom Pass holders, meaning they have some form of disability.

46% of GLA panel survey respondents stated that they purchase tickets in stations less than monthly. 12% purchase tickets at least weekly, which contrasts with 44% of London TravelWatch survey respondents.

46% stated that they do not use ticket machines on the Underground, with a further 38% saying that they do use them, but irregularly. 15% use ticket machines

frequently. The most common transaction type on machines from this survey is topping up Oyster (77%). Second most popular was buying season tickets (20%) and third was resolving problems with Oyster (16%.)

Queue times

GLA survey responses showed that over half of passengers wait for less than two minutes to use ticket machines (56%). A further 32% generally wait for under five minutes. 9% of respondents wait for six minutes or longer, and the remaining 3% were unsure as to their wait times.

Ticket machine use

Over half of respondents felt ticket machines were usually easy to use (55%). 34% felt machines are always easy to use, and 11% felt they are not easy to use.

Information

Signage was the most commonly referenced way of obtaining information in stations (70%), which highlights the fact that the majority of respondents can be considered to be regular users of the London Underground. Staff were the second most popular option (57%), showing the importance of staff presence to passengers.

Staff presence

24% of respondents indicated that they always see staff in London Underground stations, with a further 39% saying that they often see staff. 26% of respondents see staff sometimes, and 9% rarely see staff. Less than 1% of respondents stated that they never see staff.

Safety

The majority of respondents indicated that they have felt no change to their perceptions of safety in the last 12 months (73%). 17% indicated that they now feel less safe, while only 8% suggested that they feel safer.

3 Mystery Shopping Summary

Over the course of the review period, London TravelWatch conducted mystery shopping at 29 different London Underground stations.

Method

The mystery shops were carried out from the passenger perspective. London TravelWatch staff carrying out the mystery shops were requested to spend no longer than 10 minutes in any one location to imitate a passenger journey through a station.

People carrying out the mystery shops filled in a feedback form which contained similar information to the survey outlined above. Information collected included:

- Numbers of staff present in the station and where they were located
- Whether staff were assisting customers
- Number of ticket machines, queues at ticket machines and whether any ticket machines were out of service
- Types of information present in the station

Stations assessed

The table below shows the stations where mystery shops were carried out, the time of day the mystery shops occurred, the station type (Gateway, Destination, Metro, Local) as per the TfL classification and whether staff were seen during the mystery shop. See Appendix E for further information on station classifications and detail of the ticket office closure programme.

Table 1 Stations assessed by mystery shopping

Station	Station type	Zone	Date	Time	Staff present?
Euston	Gateway	1	04/10/2016	11:20	Y
Victoria	Gateway	1	30/09/2016	09:00	Y
Paddington	Gateway	1	04/10/2016	10:50	Y
Liverpool Street	Gateway	1	20/09/2016	16:20	Y
King's Cross St. Pancras	Gateway	1	30/09/2016	12:15	Y
London Bridge	Destination	1	03/10/2016	11:20	Y
Leytonstone	Local	3	26/10/2016	12:30	N
Newbury Park	Local	4	20/09/2016	08:30	y
Stratford	Destination	2	20/09/2016	16:45	Y
Baker Street	Destination	1	20/09/2016	15:55	Y
Ladbroke Grove	Local	2	22/09/2016	12:15	N
Latimer Road	Local	2	22/09/2016	12:00	N
Wood Lane	Local	2	22/09/2016	11:50	N

Blackfriars	Destination	1	20/09/2016	09:45	Y
St. John's Wood	Metro	2	20/09/2016	15:40	Y
Harrow-on-the-Hill	Metro	5	11/10/2016	16:00	Y
Wembley Park	Destination	4	11/10/2016	16:20	Y
Waterloo	Destination	1	30/09/2016	09:35	Y
Clapham North	Metro	2	03/10/2016	11:20	Y
Balham	Metro	3	03/10/2016	11:00	Y
Woodford	Local	3	11/10/2016	08:30	y
Embankment	Destination	1	03/10/2016	11:40	Y
Tottenham Hale	Metro	3	11/10/2016	08:10	Y
Blackhorse Road	Metro	3	11/10/2016	08:50	Y
West Ham	Metro	2	11/10/2016	09:10	Y
Southwark	Metro	1	11/10/2016	15:30	Y
Mile End	Metro	2	11/10/2016	16:50	Y
Bethnal Green	Metro	2	11/10/2016	17:00	Y
Westminster	Destination	1	11/10/2016	15:50	Y

Findings

Staff

In just over half of instances (55%), staff were seen assisting passengers in the stations. However, none of these instances were recorded at Local stations.

There were four instances of no staff presence within the station during the mystery shops; all were at Local stations. This represents 67% of Local stations surveyed and 14% of the total number of stations surveyed.

When filling in the mystery shop survey, participants were asked to state where staff were based. Of the staff seen across all mystery shops, the highest proportion were stationed at the gateline (46%). 20% were based by the ticket machines assisting passengers.

Information

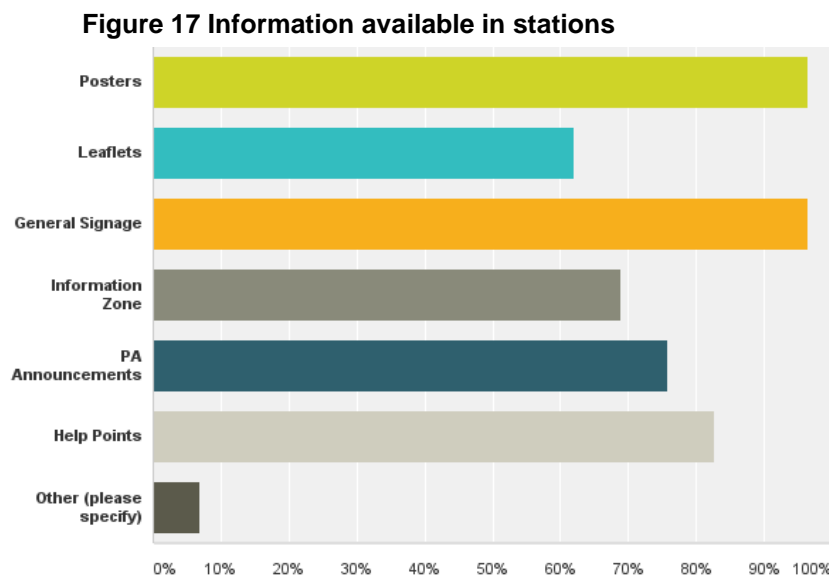


Figure 13 shows the different types of information available to passengers noted during the mystery shops.

At almost all locations, mystery shoppers noted posters and general signage (which, for example, refers to directional signage to platforms and service update boards in ticket halls).

At 17% of stations, help points were not noted by those carrying out mystery shopping. This may have been due to crowding in the station, passengers using the help points blocking them from view, or because the help points at these locations are not well located so as to be visible to passengers. The stations without visible help points were: London Bridge, Victoria, Wood Lane, Blackfriars and Newbury Park.

In the 'Other' category, mystery shoppers noted that the information zone in one of the Paddington ticket halls is an interactive screen, rather than a static map and posters as is the case at the majority of stations.

Although not all the different information types were not noted at each station, that does not necessarily mean they are not present. It may be that the information should be displayed more prominently to allow passengers to see it as they pass through the station.

Ticket machines

Queuing

Figure 18 Number of passengers queuing to use ticket machines

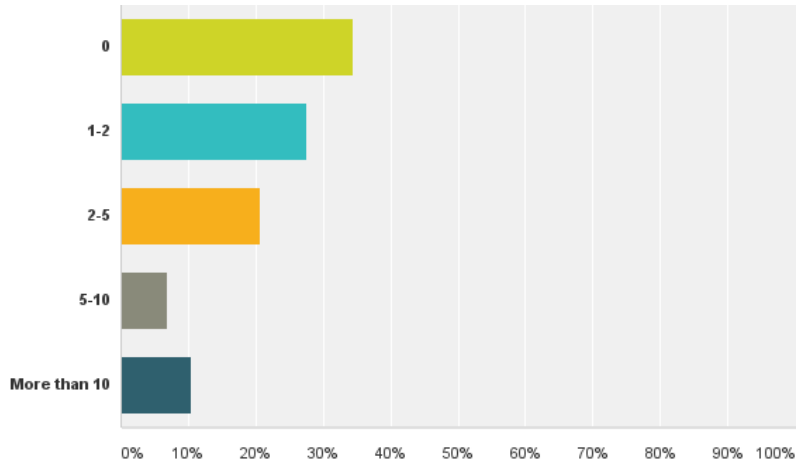
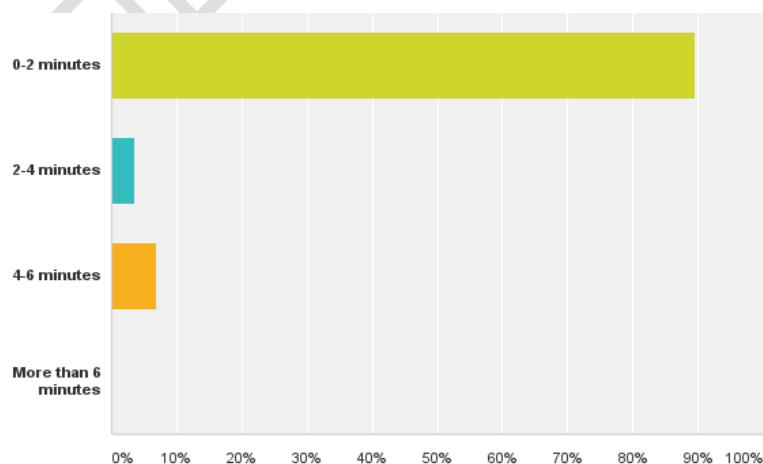


Figure 14 shows the numbers of passengers queuing to use ticket machines across the mystery shops. 83% of stations had fewer than five people waiting to use a ticket machine, with 7% having more than five but less than ten in the queue.

The three stations at which there were more than ten people queuing to use a ticket machine (10% of stations surveyed) were either Gateway or Destination stations in central London which are prone to high levels of tourists and tend to have longer queues at ticket machines.

Figure 19 Length of time spent queuing for a ticket machine

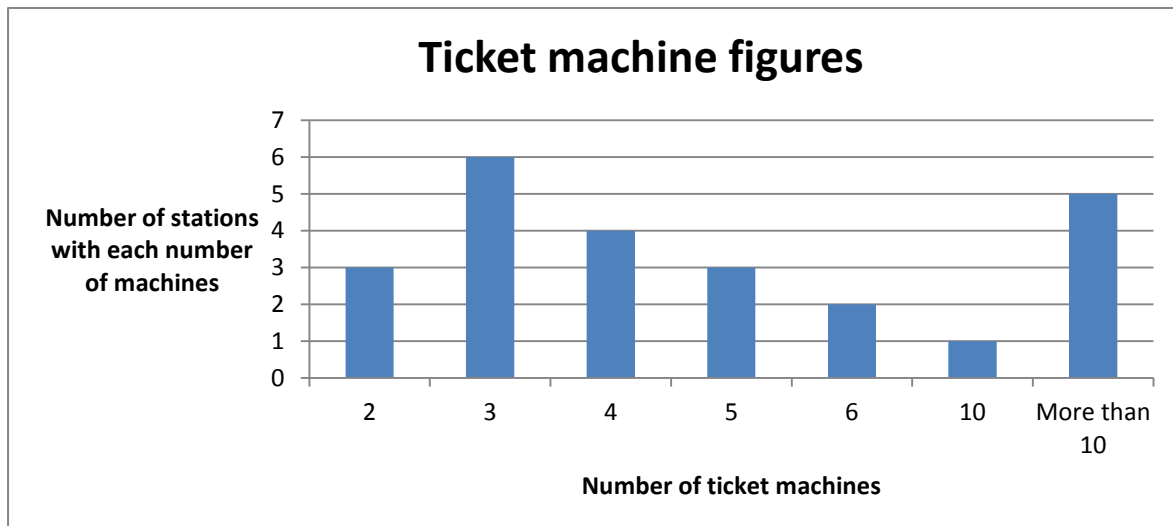


The above graph shows that a significant number of passengers had to wait for no longer than two minutes to use a ticket machine, with no passengers waiting for longer than six minutes. Two of the stations with more than ten people queuing to

use a ticket machine had queues of around five minutes; the third had a wait time shorter than two minutes as the high number of machines available allowed the queue to move quickly.

Ticket machine availability

Figure 20 Graph of ticket machine numbers



The graph in figure 16 shows the number of ticket machines available at each of the stations surveyed. The most common number of machines at each station surveyed was three. Five stations had more than ten machines; these were all central London stations with high footfall.

Of the stations surveyed, there were six instances of ticket machines out of service and 17 were partially in service, meaning 23 were operating with varying degrees of reduced functionality. This inconsistency in the availability of machines has also been reflected in survey responses and at focus group sessions. Data relating to ticket machine availability has been provided to us by TfL and can be seen in Appendix T.

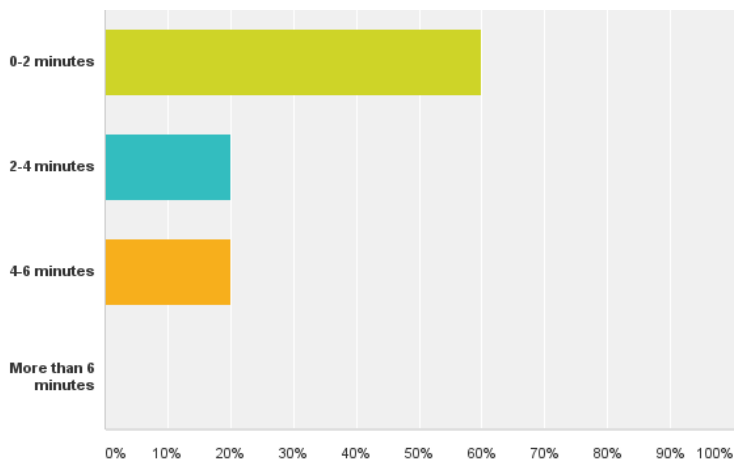
Visitor Centres

Of the stations surveyed, five have Visitor Centres (Euston, Victoria, King's Cross St. Pancras, Paddington and Liverpool Street.)

Three of these were well signposted, with the other two being difficult to find due to poor signage. This inconsistency and difficulty in finding Visitor Centres has also been flagged up by focus group participants.

All of the Visitor Centres were open at the time of the mystery shops. The graph below shows the waiting times of passengers at each of the Visitor Centres.

Figure 21 Queue times at Visitor Centres



This graph shows that waiting times at Visitor Centres are not significant, with passengers generally waiting for under two minutes. The one instance of passengers waiting for between four and six minutes was at King's Cross, which had the largest queue at the Visitor Centre (of ten people).

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4 Assisted mystery shopping summary

Assisted mystery shops were carried out with disabled passengers who use the London Underground to see how easily they can travel on the network, particularly since the changes to ticket offices.

Method

Over a three-week period, six mystery shop sessions were carried out with seven passengers with disabilities.

Unlike the mystery shopping carried out by London TravelWatch staff (outlined above) which assessed the passenger experience on a station by station basis, these mystery shops were based around a route or routes, and aimed to assess the level of assistance available from London Underground staff to passengers who may require additional support when using the network.

During the mystery shop, informal, unstructured interviews with the participants were carried out by London TravelWatch staff to:

- Gain an understanding of the types of journeys undertaken by participants
- Establish whether passengers obtain the assistance they require when travelling on the Underground
- Assess participants' feelings of safety when using the London Underground
- Discuss the ticket office closures and their impact on disabled passengers using the Underground

All passengers who participated in assisted mystery shopping as part of the review travel using Freedom Passes, which enable them to travel on the Underground free of charge.

Routes assessed

The table below outlines the stations assessed along these routes, the station type (Gateway, Destination, Metro, Local), the zone the station is in and the date and time of the mystery shop.

Table 2 Stations assessed during assisted mystery shopping

Station	Zone	Station Type	Date	Time	Staff present?
Uxbridge	6	Local	24/10/2016	10:00	Y
Hammersmith (D&P)	2	Metro	24/10/2016	10:45	Y
Hammersmith (H&C)	2	Local	24/10/2016	10:50	Y
Baker Street	1	Destination	24/10/2016	11:20	Y
Becontree	5	Local	25/10/2016	15:00	N
Liverpool Street	1	Gateway	25/10/2016	15:40	Y
Stratford	2	Destination	26/10/2016	11:30	Y

Leytonstone	3	Local	26/10/2016	11:40	Y
Snaresbrook	4	Local	26/10/2016	11:55	N
Buckhurst Hill	5	Local	26/10/2016	12:10	N
South Woodford	4	Local	26/10/2016	12:20	N
Hounslow West	5	Local	02/11/2016	13:00	Y
Heathrow Terminal 4	6	Metro	02/11/2016	13:15	Y
Heathrow Terminals 1,2,3	6	Gateway	02/11/2016	13:30	Y
Finsbury Park	2	Metro	03/11/2016	10:15	Y
Euston	1	Gateway	03/11/2016	10:30	Y
London Bridge	1	Destination	03/11/2016	10:45	Y
Victoria	1	Gateway	04/11/2016	13:30	Y
King's Cross St. Pancras	1	Gateway	04/11/2016	14:00	Y

The spread of stations examined for the assisted mystery shops was based on agreement of a start location with participants. Routes were then determined by London TravelWatch staff based on gaining information on a range of locations and station types, as well as covering stations which had shown up as having low staff presence both through previous mystery shops and TfL data.

Findings

The below findings combine assisted mystery shop survey findings with passenger feedback given during the mystery shop.

Staff

Presence

All participants in the mystery shop stated that the presence of staff varied from location to location and at different times of day. Data collected during the mystery shops confirmed this, with 21% of stations examined on the assisted mystery shops having no staff present. At nearly all stations with no staff present, the gatelines had been left open to allow passengers to pass through. All instances of no staff presence were at Local stations, which was the same for the unassisted mystery shops (see above.)

Participants cited staff presence as being of utmost importance for all passengers on the Underground, but particularly those who are unfamiliar with the network and those who are disabled. Passengers who participated in the mystery shop feel that staff presence has become more inconsistent since the ticket office closures, meaning they are not always guaranteed to receive assistance. In some cases, this has reduced participants' willingness to travel on the Underground, with some preferring instead to take the bus, despite the increased journey time.

Even in instances of participants feeling confident with using the tube network, they still cited staff presence as key.

Assistance

Both passenger feedback and experiences during the mystery shops demonstrated a mixture of levels of assistance obtained from staff.

Staff proactively assisting passengers on the network was generally low, both during solo and assisted mystery shops. For some participants in the assisted mystery shops, this was a particular concern as they felt uncomfortable approaching staff. There were five situations during the assisted mystery shops where a member of London Underground staff proactively approached a passenger, which represents 26% of the stations surveyed.

Quality of assistance also varied during these mystery shops. For instance, one passenger was assisted on a journey with an interchange, obtaining help from staff at each point of the journey. However, at another inner London location, a mystery shop volunteer was provided with poor customer service from a staff member after approaching them to ask for directions to a nearby station. This mixed level of assistance has been frequently referenced across all types of research carried out as part of the London TravelWatch review.

Ticketing

Despite not having to use ticket machines or a ticket office for ticket purchasing as they travel with Freedom Passes, all participants expressed concern at the loss of the ticket offices in relation to other users of the network being able to get both tickets and assistance.

Additionally, passengers noted that if there was ever a problem with their Freedom pass, they may be required to purchase a ticket. Passengers who cited this also noted that they would feel uncomfortable using a ticket machine as they were unsure how to use them.

Accessibility

All participants felt that an insufficient number of stations were step-free. They also stated low levels of staff presence as a concern, particularly where staff were required to assist passengers onto the train from the platform, for example using a Manual Boarding Ramp, or with luggage/pushchairs.

Some also noted that stations should be better equipped for visually impaired passengers. They cited more consistent painting of steps in luminous paint, and consistency of tactile paving in key areas (i.e. at the bottom of stairs).

Information

Signage

One of the elements assessed as part of these mystery shops was the availability and accessibility of signage for passengers with disabilities.

All participants noted that while there was a good amount of signage in stations, it was often not in easy-read format, making it difficult for passengers with visual impairments or certain learning difficulties to read. Passengers on the mystery shops suggested that PA announcements and signage in easy-read font sizes and styles would be much more accessible to all passengers.

Help Points

None of the passengers on the mystery shop use help points on London Underground, preferring instead to try and resolve issues themselves or trying to find a staff member to assist them.

Some did express concerns about how the help points were answered, and how often, and cited passengers in wheelchairs as potential users of help points.

Visitor Centres

As with survey respondents and focus group participants, there was a low level of knowledge of the Visitor Centres amongst mystery shopping participants.

None of the mystery shop participants used Visitor Centres to obtain information, but felt they were generally a good idea, especially for unfamiliar users of the network.

Safety

57% of participants stated they were generally comfortable travelling alone on the London Underground. However, the remaining 43% of participants stated they were uncomfortable travelling alone on the network and that this was primarily due to concerns for their own safety. Some said they only ever used the Underground when travelling with other people, preferring to use the buses when travelling alone.

All participants referenced a need for staff to be visibly present in stations throughout the day – particularly at night – to ensure passengers feel safe on the network.

Participants also felt it was important to have a point where staff can be found in stations – this did not necessarily have to be a ticket office, but had to be an area of the station where passengers can seek assistance from staff.

Appendix B – Talk London Panel survey summary

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Appendix C – 2CV research summary

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