

Sadiq Khan
City Hall
The Queens Walk
London SE12AA

28th October 2020

Dear Mayor Sadiq Khan,

Re: Doctors and Health Professionals support London Streetspace changes

As a concerned group of doctors and health professionals representing the health and wellbeing of Londoners, we are writing to support the Streetspace changes made to enable more walking and cycling in London during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since lockdown we have witnessed growth in motoring much faster than the return to public transport. Supporting people to walk and cycle with Streetspace is the best chance we have to arrest this rise and avoid a damaging car-based recovery that could set London back many years in progress on active and sustainable transport, road danger reduction and clean air.

We recognise the adverse impact that motor vehicles have on our patients and the broader community. We therefore strongly support the measures you have been putting in place for the following reasons:

1. First, there is clear evidence that improved infrastructure which segregates cyclists, drivers and pedestrians leads to significant reductions in deaths and serious injuries. As you know, there were 125 fatalities on London's roads last year and 3780 serious injuries. This compares poorly to other European cities, such as Oslo, which through a combination of actions including great infrastructure has meant there were no fatalities last year.
2. Second, the impact of obesity and inactivity leading to its own epidemic of disease. One in six deaths in the UK are attributable to inactivity as well as 40% of long term illness. Compare this to the Netherlands where obesity levels are much lower than the UK and cycling is an integral part of daily life.
3. Third, air pollution, of which road transport is well recognised as the principle source in London leads to the early deaths of thousands of Londoners every year. It is vital that London presses ahead with the LEZ and ULEZ to continue to progress on air quality
4. Transport is responsible for 25% of the UK's climate change gases – as health professionals we are aware of the health impact that climate change is already having on our populations with increasing frequency of heat waves and floods. Worse is likely unless action is taken to reduce CO2 emissions by reducing the number of car journeys which the Streetspace changes support.
5. Finally, we are also acutely aware of the negative impact of the increase in cars driving through residential areas, which is well known to prevent people from spending time outside in their local community. This leads to loneliness and associated poor physical and mental wellbeing. In the last decade, loneliness has escalated from a personal misfortune to a social epidemic.

As health professionals, we consistently do our best to play our part, advising patients to walk and cycle to improve their health. However, a great many of our patients say they are reluctant to cycle as they feel it is too dangerous to do so in London. Evidence from many major cities—Copenhagen, Barcelona, Seville, and more recently small pockets of London and other UK cities has clearly demonstrated that as soon as you build safe cycle routes, people start cycling.

We therefore greatly appreciate the changes being made by TfL to support people cycling especially during this time when there is rising risk of virus transmission and public transport capacity is reduced. The wands used to separate cycle lanes on main roads such as the A24, Park Lane, and Kensington High Street make it feel a lot safer to travel by bicycle along these routes, and make it feel safer for people walking too. We also appreciate the changes being made by boroughs with support from TfL in creating low traffic neighbourhoods, which have huge potential to benefit health as long as they are well planned with close attention to issues of equity.

We are concerned that some of these valuable schemes have been removed, and consideration is being given to remove others. We would like to lend our support to TfL and council leaders across London to continue increasing the road changes to promote walking and cycling not removing them.

Yours sincerely

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Dr Rebecca Redwood, GP

Dr Declan Phelan, GP

Dr Helen Stedeford, GP, Clinical Lead for Cancer

Dr Naureen Bhatti , GP

Dr Emma Radcliffe, GP

Dr Philippa Cockman, GP

Dr Clare Andrews, GP

Dr Rachel Bower, GP

Dr Miguel A Garcia, GP

Dr Rebecca Viney, GP, Educationalist

Dr Ravisha Chibber, GP

Dr Tamsin Ellis, GP

Dr. Jasmeet Sachar, GP

Dr Sarah Andersen, GP

Dr Kat Parker, GP

Dr Helen Barclay, GP

Dr Honey Smith, GP, Chair of Greener Practice

Dr Jens Ruhback, GP
Dr Deepa Shah, GP, Clinical Lecturer
Dr Katharine Alsop, GP
Dr Chris Newman, GP
Dr Jane Myat, GP
Dr Natalie Symes, GP
Dr Katharina Kunert, GP
Dr Hugh Coyne, GP
Dr Dilip Savani, GP
Dr Madeleine Beach, GP
Dr Deana Gershuny, GP Trainee
Dr Andrew Gellert, Medical Educator, Retired GP

Prof Karim Brohi, Consultant Vascular Surgeon, Clinical Director London Major Trauma Network
Prof Jeremy Levy, Professor of Medicine
Prof Tahseen Chowdhury, Professor of Diabetes
Cleo Kenington, Consultant Emergency General Surgery
Sarah Little, Consultant Otolaryngologist and Care Group Lead
Scarlett McNally, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Director of The Centre for Perioperative Care
Dr Edward Seaton, Consultant Dermatologist
Dr Thomas Carter, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr Richard Hartopp, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr Elaine Monahan, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr Andrew Tan, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr Karen Light, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr Catherine Stack, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr Dominic Spray, Consultant in Intensive Care, Clinical Director Adult Critical Care
Dr Tran Seaton, Consultant Radiologist
Dr Cordelia Howitt, Consultant Histopathologist
Dr Eman Awad, Consultant Occupational Physician
Dr Noel Pollock, Consultant Sport & Exercise Medicine

Dr Akali Jayanth, Medical Oncologist, (retired)

Prof Tim Oliver, Emeritus Professor of Medical Oncologist

Prof Adam Timmis, Emeritus Professor Clinical Cardiology

Dr Toby Webster, Foundation Trainee

Dr Louise Whitton, Foundation Trainee

Dr Helena Carley, Trainee in Cancer Genetics

Dr Phil Ostrowski, Trainee in Clinical Genetics

Mr Antonio Leytegolpe, Trainee Surgeon

Ms Alice Baggaley, Trainee Surgeon

Ms Victoria Pegna, Trainee Surgeon, Lead for sustainability at Royal College of Surgeons

Dr Rob Mitchel, Trainee Surgeon

Dr Anna Moore, Trainee in Respiratory Medicine

Dr Jonathan Major, Anaesthetics Trainee

Dr Andrew Selman, Anaesthetics Trainee

Dr Rumiko King, Anaesthetics Trainee

Dr Kat Hunter, Anaesthetics Trainee

Dr Rosie Herrmann, Intensive Care Trainee

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Dr Nadia Audhali, Paediatrics Trainee

Dr Isobel Braithwaite, Public Health Trainee

Dr Sarah Foot, Medical Trainee

Dr Hannah Campling, Psychiatry Trainee

Dr Stephen Hibbs, Haematology Trainee

Dr Sarah Birkby, Cardiology Trainee

Dr Cathy Coleman, Associate Specialist, Breast Clinician

Dr Bryony Redfern, Speciality Doctor, Sexual Health

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Anne White, Head of nursing

Louise Ramadhan, Matron

David Lincoln, Specialist Nurse, Aging Well Service
Giles Crabtree, Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Emergency Care
Patrick Wilson, Emergency Care, Registered Nurse
Megan Jenkins, Midwife
Anita Croft, Midwife
Melissa Claridge, Midwife
Sophie Franks, Midwife
Hebe Dvies-Colley, Midwife
Michiela Lusack, Midwife
Ashleigh James, Midwife
Marie Lamptey, Midwife
Jenny Geyer, Midwife
Miriam Gonzales, Midwife
Emily Pullan, Midwife
Eleanor Hurwood, Midwife
Sophie Haynes, Midwife
Tamsyn Green, Midwife
Anne Shurlock, Midwife
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Kerry Fairall, Children's Occupational Therapist

Michelle Doyle, Specialist Occupational Therapist Neurosurgery

Nicole Leow, Performance Physiotherapist

Peter May, Senior Orthopaedic Research Physiotherapist

Jessica Pawson, Orthopaedic Research Physiotherapist

Simon Croft, Clinical Team Manager, Paramedic, London Ambulance Service

Cc

Heidi Alexander, Deputy Mayor for transport

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney & Chair of London Councils transport and environment committee

Andy Byford, Transport commissioner

Will Norman, Walking and Cycling Commissioner