



# National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers



The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

26 August 2020

Dear Grant,

## **Submission to Government review of TfL's sustainability**

I am enclosing a copy of a submission on behalf of the RMT union to your department's review of TfL's financial sustainability. As you know, RMT represents thousands of workers on London's Underground and Overground networks. Our members are engaged in operating, maintaining, cleaning and renewing London's public transport network every day and as such they are a vast source of knowledge and experience.

The review of TfL's financial sustainability that you announced in July included the following terms of reference:

- the identification of opportunities to deliver further efficiencies in the medium term in relation to operating costs, including but not limited to, workforce modernisation, and exploring the feasibility of extending driverless operation from the DLR to other lines which are already automatic
- a review of the current operating model and whether there are any opportunities that alternative operating models could bring over the longer term, including consideration of structures and governance.

I have already raised with you my concerns about the implications of any consideration of alternative operating models that involve any attempt to privatise London Underground, for example. However, we also believe that this review provides an opportunity to end the failed experiment with making TfL entirely dependent on passenger fares. Public transport needs public funding. This is both inescapable and correct.

**Please reply by email only using the following address:**  
[jwhite@rmt.org.uk](mailto:jwhite@rmt.org.uk)

We also argue that this is an opportunity to end the fixation with driving down operating costs through attacks on staff jobs and terms and conditions.

As our submission shows, even before the Coronavirus pandemic, this approach brought London's transport network to the verge of a safety crisis. During the pandemic, our members have shown great courage and determination, playing their part in keeping London's essential services moving. Now, as the lockdown eases, they are playing a critical role in restoring services safely.

What this crisis has demonstrated, quite clearly, is that building back a better, safer public transport system for the future will mean creating more jobs, not less. My hope is that the government will listen to the voices of the staff who operate London transport every day rather than viewing them as a simple cost to be managed. Keyworkers who have kept vital public services running throughout this crisis deserve nothing less.

I look forward to your response at the earliest opportunity,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lynch', with a period at the end.

Mick Lynch,  
Senior Assistant General Secretary, RMT