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# Independent Workers Union of Great Britain



**Open letter to Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, Deputy Mayor for Transport Seb Dance and Walking and Cycling Commissioner Will Norman, Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps and Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister Andrew Gilligan.**

CC: Chief Executives and Leaders of London Councils, Directors of Public Health in London, Chris Boardman newly appointed CEO of Active Travel England.

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Secretary of State and other officials,

At a recent meeting of council officers, a TfL official disclosed proposed cost savings - enforced on TfL by the financial settlement with government for the period February to 25th June - that included a proposal to withdraw funding for in-person cycle training with immediate effect. This is part of a package of savings that includes a 25% reduction of TfL staff. We understand that this has not yet been decided upon.

We the undersigned, are strongly opposed to this proposal and urge all parties to find another solution. Cycling Instructors have been battered by COVID with long periods of shut-down and many not eligible for furlough, and facing severely reduced incomes. Local councils have lost LIP funding leading to the total cancellation of adult training across large swathes of London and massively reduced schools' cycle training across the board and a 50% cut in funding for cycle training compared to 2019 for the last two financial quarters and even less for the period to June 2022. The consequence of all this is that the Cycling Instructor workforce cannot survive further cuts to budgets and is at risk of no longer existing as a vital resource to the capital beyond the summer.

It would be a gross economic mistake to attempt to make savings by cutting the cycle training budget for a number of reasons.

## **Cycle training saves money.**

Whether it is short-term, medium term or long term, whether it is for the individual, the council, the NHS or the state, cycle training saves money. Lots of money. Every road fatality costs £2 million in emergency responses, investigations and prosecutions. Congestion, pollution, obesity, costs millions upon millions. Cycling saves petrol, saves time and keeps you off crowded public transport - where you are more likely to get COVID and need time off work.

## **Cycle training makes money.**

Government reports, financial institution reports and council reports all conclude that increased levels of cycling boosts the economy and especially so at a local or micro-local level.

According to TfL's own reports\*: every £1 spent on cycling returns £13 to the economy. In 2019 cycling contributed £5.4 billion. Walking and cycling improvements boost consumer spending by 30%. People who

walk and cycle spent 40% more than those that drive. Employees take 1.3 fewer sick days worth £128 million nationally. In London alone, active travel could save the NHS £1.7 billion over 25 years.

According to the government's own reports<sup>\*\*</sup>: physical inactivity contributes to 1 in 6 deaths at a cost of £7.4 billion to society. Meeting targets for cycling would save £567 million in air quality alone and prevent 8300 premature deaths.

"We want 50% of all journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030." Grant Shapp, Secretary of State for Transport<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>.

"At its heart is a bold aim for 80 per cent of all trips in London to be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport by 2041." Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.

"A bold strategy where nobody is afraid to cycle; every child is confident and safe walking or cycling to school; all road users treat each other with mutual respect" UK Government Gear Change report.

"We will ensure that every adult and child who wants it can be trained how to ride a cycle safely" Gear Change.

"Taking up cycling is among the most effective health interventions a person can make" Gear Change.

"If exercise were a pill, it would be one of the most cost-effective drugs ever invented" NHS.uk<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

## **Cycling saves the planet**

Cycling is part of almost every single institution in the world's plan to tackle climate change, from the smallest primary school, to the largest workplace, every university and every hospital, every council and government department. They all include increased levels of cycling as part of their plan to tackle climate change and to improve the health and wellbeing of their workers. All the way up to the United Nations itself, where on Wednesday 16th March 2022 - the very day that we learned about the proposed cuts to cycle training - 193 members of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution promoting cycling as a means to tackle climate change.

## **Barriers to cycling**

There are many barriers to participation in cycling and there are many schemes to reduce the barriers. But there is no single other intervention which has the same lifelong impact that a cycle trainer has on a client that was unable to ride, or was not confident, or had previously had an accident, or never learned and spent 20, 30, 40 years thinking it was not for them. Cycle instructors are a vital resource in the capital's drive for modal shift. We cannot afford to lose them, yet already many have been priced out and many councils cannot resource demand. For those reading that do not already know, cycling instructors deliver Bikeability to primary schools, deliver Safe Urban Driver courses to the freight industry, deliver adult learn-to-ride and commuter training for councils, deliver social prescribing and social inclusion programmes for the NHS, are used by the courier industry as part of their risk management, work with SEND children and vulnerable adults and much more. Cycling instructors are qualified, highly experienced, dedicated and professional.

We cannot allow the political gamesmanship of high offices, the battle between the treasury and TfL over funding, to cause the further decimation of the instructor workforce.

Nor can we allow the vulnerable employment status of instructors be used to balance the TfL books just because they seem a soft target for cuts. That funding for cycle training outside London has increased from £12m, to £18m to £20 million<sup>^</sup> under this prime minister, but that the opposite is true for the capital reflects badly on both the treasury and TfL.

We demand that TfL immediately revoke the threat of halting cycle training and we demand that TfL and the treasury produce a long term funding budget to resource the professional delivery of cycle training in London.

The cost of living crisis is now, the fuel crisis is now, the climate crisis is now, the health crisis is now, the congestion crisis is now, modal shift is now. If you want a cycle instructor workforce beyond the summer of 2022, now is the time for investment not for cuts.

### **Signed on behalf of the IWGB Cycling Instructors Branch**

Michael McSherry, Chair  
Suami Rocha, Secretary

### **And co-signed by the following NSI/Bikeability cycling instructors:**

Mariam Draaijer	Emma Capello	Brian Evans
Louie Lister	James Holloway	Dafydd Walters
Shabiha Kothia	Peter May	Simon Akhigbe
Michael McSherry	Simon Falush	David Hilliard
Wilson Sobrinho	Syed Nabi	Jozef Kanyicska
Michal Kloucek	George Morrisb	Elaine Owen
Danny Ward	Nikki Ray	Salma Rahman
Nigel Brook	Hannah Horsfall	Janine Eagling
Sean Gooch	Eddie	R Hunter
William Embliss	Andrew Norris-Sherborn	Josie Warshaw
Richard Tarrant	Michael Swietochowski	Philip Benstead
Jon Pook	Esher	Nadjie Butler
Ben House	Rick Ross	Steve Davis
Peter Bancroft	Patrycja Ozog	Marlis Haase
Alex Lively	Barnaby Eager	Laura Shelton
Andrea Vladova	Roy Ashman	Earlyna Edwards
Tiago Santoianni	Perunika Petkova	Andrejka Eastwood
Laurence Ferguson	Joe Adolpy	Will Melling
Virginia Cleugh	Gavin Davies	Sam Parkes
Philippa Robb	Emma Pajarillaga	Mark Surrey
Daniel de Brett	Paul Murray	Catherine Al Jibouri
Kotu Moyenda	Sean Naylor	Thomas Leslie
Eamonn Stack	Dominic Spitzer-Wong	Charlie Cornwall
Mario López-Goicoechea	Barnaby Stutter	Diego Marando
Miles Gouch	K Li	Ben Pitt
Thomas Wheeler	Selina Rice	Emma Budgen
David Saunders	Paola Cavallin	Nick Barrett
Vincent Walsh	Paul Smailes	Andrew Castiglione
Stuart Taylor	Jonathan Buckley	Rupert Gardner
Rukaiya Moola	Neville McKay	Erika Severini
Seema Vawda	Elisabetta	Sarah Javaid

### **And co-signed by the following cycling and cycle training provider leaders and groups:**

Jim Blakemore, CEO of Bikeworks  
Gerardo Del Guercio, Director of Cycling Instructor Ltd  
Yashmin Harun BEM, Founder and Chair of Muslimah Sports Association  
Vieve Ford, Director of JoyRiders Britain CIC

Anthony Dawodu, The Hope of Childs Hill  
Cycle Sisters Muslim Womens' Cycling Group

**And co-signed by the following health professionals, policy experts, environmental campaigners, service users, cyclists, trade unionists, researchers, and members of the public:**

Jo Rigby, Earlsfield Councillor  
Christian Wolmar, writer  
Waltham Forest Cycling  
Campaign  
Arja Taaveniku, JoyRiders  
Mieke Evans, JoyRiders  
Kerena Fussell, JoyRiders  
Sarah Tomlin, JoyRiders  
Sabeha Miah, Cycle Sisters  
Tracey, Cycle Sisters  
Kate Hollis, Clean School Air  
Rajith Perera, Chair of Enfield  
& Haringey COP26 Coalition  
Nick Butler, LCC  
Carla Francome, LCC  
Richard Hearne, PRiDE OUT  
Fergus Nicom  
Shaheen Ahmed  
Nevin  
Sue Christoforou  
Aidan Harper  
Alex Marshall  
Luz Navarro, researcher  
Mirela Relan-Delaney  
Lynda  
Marc Rothman  
Helen Jones  
Grattan Hooey  
John Chamberlain  
Gloria Bertussi  
Mohan Gandhi  
Simon Saville  
Cathy  
Casey Abaraonye  
Sally Haywill  
Kate Laing  
Jason Warner  
Kylie ap Garth  
Ann-Marie Wong  
Anup  
Laura Dekker  
Parus Shah  
Sarah Huntley  
Karen  
Oliver Elgie  
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Helen Hunte

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Shahana Khanom  
Charlie Fernandes  
David Wood  
Dr Susie Morrow  
Philip Jacobs  
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Nicholas Tromans  
Gloria Kelly  
Hazera  
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Carolyn Axtell  
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Junaid Ibrahim  
Jaymie Benka-Davies  
Tiffany Lam  
Sumaiya Khan  
Fiona Jackson  
Ian Bradler

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Olivia MacDonald  
Leo Murray  
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Sheeba Islam-Boyce  
Andrew Pendleton  
Martin Cottington  
Kim Roberts  
Emma Brodrick  
Eilidh Murray  
Merel Krediet  
Zayneea  
Dave ford  
Louise Wass  
Gemma Freedman  
Steven Edwards  
Rakel Perez  
Veronica Chamberlain  
Hannah  
Amandine Alexandre  
Gabriel Anderson  
Lynn Hardie  
Jethro Duarte-Holman  
Matt Massara  
Geoff Stilwell  
Graeme Tong  
Jack Driver  
Kate Fisher  
Daniel Moore-Oats  
Nicole Shin  
Robert Hansell  
David Treadwell  
Brando Posocco  
Myles Barrell  
Jason Browne  
Ruth Mayorcas  
Helen Chauncy  
Soriaya Choudhry  
Emma Webb  
Andrew Britt  
Rabia Ali  
Neil Webster  
Sam Jenkins

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Colin Fancy	Sue Connew	Holly Pokora
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Robert Pragnell	Khaleada Khan	Catarina Loureiro
Julia Shmotkina	Mohammed Murshed	Can Yildiz
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Beatrice Goater	Anton Peterson	Howard McAlpine
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Aimee Kyffin	Maria Grandi	John Renshaw
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Brian Turpin	Alexandra Milenov	Aliyah Naroth
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Claire Kelly	Inga Campos	

## References:

\* [Source: content.tfl.gov.uk/walking-cycling-economic-benefits-summary-pack.pdf](https://content.tfl.gov.uk/walking-cycling-economic-benefits-summary-pack.pdf)

\*\* [Source:](#)

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\*\*\* [Source: nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/exercise-health-benefits](https://nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/exercise-health-benefits)

\*\*\*\* <https://www.forbes.com/sites/carltonreid/2021/02/03/half-of-all-urban-journeys-must-be-cycled-or-walked-within-ten-years-confirms-uk-government/?sh=75f2c491551a>

^ [Bikeability receives record £20 million government investment to improve access to cycle training - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)