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Independent Workers Union of Great Britain



Dear Mayor Sadiq Khan, Deputy Mayor Heidi Alexander and Cycling and Walking commissioner Will Norman,

We the undersigned, representing trade unions, environmental lobby groups, primary schools and other organisations, urge you to immediately reverse the short-sighted funding cuts to cycle training provision in London.

Cycle training is a vital part of building a cleaner, greener and healthier London. Cycling is a far cleaner mode of transport than any other and is vital for tackling air pollution and the health emergency. London's Councils, Transport for London and the Department for Transport have all committed to decarbonising road transport and supporting cycle training for all children and adults as a key part of their strategy to achieve decarbonisation.

Cycling instructors now face severe financial distress as a result of a drastic collapse in their incomes – at a time when SEISS support has stopped and after an extremely disrupted 18 months. As well as the hardship this causes, some instructors have already been forced out of the industry and we fear many more instructors will leave because of these latest cuts.

This is the opposite of what is needed at a time when the government has committed to recruiting 1,000 new instructors and doubling the number of children offered cycle training.

The cuts have come down from the top, but none of the organisations – neither TFL nor the councils – have as yet made the decision to sustain this vital service from their own funds, at a time when Haringey council, for example, is taking nearly £10 million per year in parking charges, and TfL is committed to spending £1 billion on the Silvertown tunnel.

How can we take any COP26 commitments made at national, city or local council level seriously if you won't even fund children's cycle training?

We, the undersigned, urge you to immediately reverse the funding cuts, to meet with cycling instructors from the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain (IWGB), and to work with local authorities and the IWGB to make proper provision for sustainable cycle training as a matter of urgency.

Kind regards,

Michael McSherry - Chair - IWGB Cycling Instructors

John Dolan - Chair - Enfield Trade Unionist and Socialist coalition

Paul Kershaw - Chair - Unite Housing Workers

Mira Glavardanov - Secretary - Unite Community Enfield

Rajith Perera - Chair - Haringey and Enfield COP26 Coalition

Chris Barber - Secretary - Haringey Labour Climate Action