

# SHAUN BAILEY

Huw Merriman MP  
Chairman of Transport Select Committee  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 0AA

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Chairman,

I am writing to you in relation to the Transport Select Committee session with the Mayor of London, which took place earlier today.

I took issue with a number of things the Mayor said. But most concerning was the Mayor's claim that the number of TfL staff earning over £100,000 has decreased hugely since he became Mayor. Please see the transcript at the end of this letter for the exact quote.

While the Mayor is entitled to defend his record, he's not entitled to do so using inaccurate statistics. And it is simply not the case that the number of TfL staff earning over £100,000 has fallen under his mayoralty. In 2015/16, the final year of Boris Johnson's mayoralty, the number of TfL employees earning over £100,000 was 402, while among Crossrail staff it was 56, bringing the total to 458. At no point subsequently have the numbers fallen below 458. And for 2019/20, as reported by the Evening Standard, TfL now has 521 employees earning over £100,000, while Crossrail has 36 — bringing the total to 557.

So the Mayor's statement earlier today is not a failed attempt at political spin. It is either ignorance of his own job or a deliberate attempt to mislead parliament.

Regardless of what the Mayor says, the truth is that the number of TfL employees earning over £100,000 has increased every single year of his mayoralty except for one. In addition, a greater number of employees have earned over £100,000 in every year of his mayoralty compared to when he inherited it from Boris Johnson.

This issue deserves further scrutiny. If it turns out that the Mayor was ignorant of TfL's financial situation, Londoners might not be surprised. The Mayor still thinks TfL was on a sustainable footing before coronavirus — when in fact it was in financial difficulty long before the virus hit. It was suffering from huge debt, unsustainable interest payments and is regularly accused of wasting millions and in some cases tens of millions of pounds on: taxis<sup>1</sup>, hotels and flights<sup>2</sup> golden goodbyes for senior Transport For London staff<sup>3</sup>, and vanity projects like the now cancelled Rotherhithe Bridge<sup>4</sup>.

Londoners are proud of TfL. We deserve a Mayor who has the ability to manage it properly.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,



Shaun Bailey AM

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/tfl-picks-up-cost-of-625-taxi-for-woman-who-missed-last-train-a4092721.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/06/11/tfl-spent-1-million-flights-hotels-last-year-foi-request-reveals/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/51m-spent-on-tfl-transport-worker-payoffs-vvkk2v9k6>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/tfl-paid-firms-almost-10-million-for-canned-rotherhithe-crossing/10044234.article>

## Annex

### Transcript

*Robert Largan: I've got the figure of 557 TFL staff on over £100,000 per year, what is the reason and justification for that?*

*Sadiq Khan: I can give you a note about the exact numbers but that has gone down hugely since I became Mayor and bonuses have gone down hugely since I became Mayor.... but just to reassure the committee, unlike during the previous administration where the number of people earning over £100,000 was going up and bonuses were going up, in the last 4 years they have been going down.*

*Robert Largan MP: So, the number of people earning over £100,000 has fallen?*

*Sadiq Khan: Yes, as have bonuses.*

### Statistics

2015/16 Transport for London: 402 Crossrail: 56 Total: 458<sup>5</sup>

2016/17: Transport for London: 515 Crossrail: 61 Total: 576<sup>6</sup>

2017/18: Transport for London: 564 Crossrail: 53 Total: 617<sup>7</sup>

2018/19: Transport for London: 468 Crossrail: 47 Total: 515<sup>8</sup>

2019/20: Transport for London: 521 Crossrail: 36 Total: 557<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/tfl-annual-report-2015-16.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/tfl-annual-report-and-statement-of-accounts-2016-17.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/tfl-annual-report-and-statement-of-accounts-2017-18.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/tfl-annual-report-and-statement-of-accounts-2018-19.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/aac-20200608-public-agenda.pdf>