



Department for Transport

From the Permanent Secretary

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

E-Mail: bernadette.kelly@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.dft.gov.uk



Transport for London

Andy Byford
Commissioner of Transport

Transport for London
Palestra
197 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8NJ

andybyford@tfl.gov.uk

Dame Meg Hillier DBE MP

Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14 July 2021

Dear Chair

Crossrail Update

It was a pleasure to host you and members of the Committee on your recent visit to Tottenham Court Road station on 30 June 2021. We hope you found the tour informative and were reassured by seeing first-hand the advanced state of progress at one of the ten new stations that make up the central section of the Elizabeth line.

We write further to Mark Wild's spring progress report on Crossrail of 22 June 2021, to provide a short further update on the latest developments with the project.

As we explained on the visit the Trial Running period, which involves the intensive operational testing of trains to ensure safety and reliability, started on 10 May. Crossrail commenced four trains per hour (tph) on 10 May; eight tph on 7 June 2021; and increased the number of trains to 12 tph in the tunnels on 12 July. This will be the initial level of service on the Elizabeth line when it enters passenger service.

Crossrail has recently handed over Liverpool Street and Woolwich stations to TfL, and it has just completed its first construction blockade following the transition to an operational railway environment, focused on physical works, testing and inspections in the tunnels and stations. The blockade achieved an overall productivity rate of over 90 per cent.

As part of the work undertaken by Crossrail, a refurbished station entrance for Moorgate station on Moorfields is now open. Step-free access to the London Underground's Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City lines has been provided with new lifts serving the eastbound and westbound platforms. The new entrance is more spacious at 65 metres wide, with a longer gateline, six new ticket vending machines and customer information screens providing an improved customer experience for those using the station.

Paddington, Whitechapel and Canary Wharf will be the next Elizabeth line stations to be transferred over to TfL. Works at these stations are now primarily focused on the extensive testing and commissioning of systems.

Trial Operations is the next major milestone and involves volunteers being invited onto trains and stations to test real-time service scenarios, staff familiarisation and evacuation training to ensure the readiness of the railway. When the passenger quality software (ELR 100) is ready to be commissioned in the autumn, the project will conduct a further blockade to complete any elements of outstanding works on the routeway.

The On Network Works delivered by Network Rail has opened new station facilities in the western section at West Ealing and Acton Mainline in March and Ealing Broadway station in May. New station facilities at: Southall, Hayes and Harlington and West Drayton are expected to open this summer. Most of the update works to the stations in the east section have been completed, except for Ilford and Romford. Works to the remaining surface stations in the east and west continues with overall completion expected in early 2022.

We hope this is a helpful update. Everyone working on this railway is focussed on the tasks ahead, in what will be an extremely busy couple of months to bring the Elizabeth line into passenger service next year.

We look forward to answering the Committee's questions on 19 July.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Kelly CB
Permanent Secretary



Andy Byford
Commissioner, TfL