

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Routemaster Buses and Ventilation	
REPORT OF: Transport for London (TfL)	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE: 11 th September 2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>The report highlights measures TfL have made to improve Routemaster buses ventilation and reduce in-bus temperatures on hot days since their introduction in London, following safety concerns and queries raised by the Chair of the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Desiryn Csaszar Executive Manager Bus Directorate Palestra House 197 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8NJ M: 07921 898737 E: DesirynCsaszar@tfl.gov.uk </p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That the Committee consider and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed: Desiryn Csaszar Executive Manager Bus Directorate TfL

Date: 30th August 2023

1. Purpose of Report (and Reason for Urgency)

1.1 The Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Chair raised safety concerns and has asked questions about high temperatures and the ventilation on Routemaster buses particularly on hot days:

1.2 TfL have been invited to attend the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee to respond to the safety concerns raised and highlight what measures have been made to improve the bus's ventilation and discuss any review that has been carried out following new windows being added in 2015 and whether any future work is taking place to improve ventilation and reduce in-bus temperatures on hot days.

2. Measures taken to address ventilation concerns.

2.1 Safety of all passengers is paramount and the first priority at Transport for London. The thermal comfort of passengers of all buses on the London Bus Network has also been a priority for improvements and upgrades. Transport for London has been working closely with bus manufacturers, operators, and University College London (UCL) to research options for both optimising cooling systems fitted to current vehicles and to develop new cooling systems to integrate into future vehicles.

2.2 New Bus vehicle specifications have been released with heavy focus on improving the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in particular. Although these changes will only be reflected in new buses entering the fleet due to how they are integrated into the vehicle, optimisation and maintenance of current systems has also been a priority. TfL are enforcing standards relating to existing systems by instructing bus operators to ensure all HVAC components are in working order and putting in place random audits of driver's cab HVAC system performance by TfL-funded independent vehicle inspectors. We plan on rolling out these audits to incorporate the bus saloon chiller systems of vehicles in service from the end of August starting with and New Routemaster (NRM) route in Camden area. So, if a particular route was of concern, we can target our inspectors there.

2.3 The NRM buses were retro fitted with windows in a campaign that finished over 5 years ago, to improve passenger thermal comfort. There is also the possibility to further optimise the air chiller system on those vehicles which we're currently investigating with UCL.

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

3.1 There are no financial implications to be reported.

4. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

4.1 There are no legal comments arising from this report.

REPORT ENDS