

Mike Brown MVO  
Commissioner of Transport for London  
55 Broadway,  
London, SW1 OBD

**Executive Mayor's Office**  
Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
[mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
Tel: 020 7364 6971

**Philip Glanville**  
**Mayor of Hackney**  
[philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk)  
Tel: 020 8356 4857

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Dear Mike Brown MVO

### **Highbury and Islington to Stratford Overground**

We are jointly writing to you to seek assurances regarding services on the Overground line between Islington and Stratford, following disruption experienced by our residents. This builds on some individual approaches we have made in the past about these issues.

As you know, this line provides a vital link for our residents and constituents – it has been key to driving regeneration in our boroughs. This is particularly true in the Hackney Wick area where we successfully bid to the Greater London Authority to create a Creative Enterprise Zone. It is vital that it has the transport connections to serve this cultural and economic hub.

Unfortunately the experience from our residents is that the line has experienced ongoing delays, cancellations and the increasingly frequent practice of missing out Hackney station stops on the London Overground.

We understand that during busy periods it is Transport for London and Arriva policy for services to miss Hackney stations, including Hackney Wick, effectively creating a 'fast train' to Stratford. However, our residents also tell us that these services often wait outside Stratford station for some time.

At the same time, we also understand that it is policy to 'prioritise' the Willesden Junction to Highbury & Islington section, and that a late delivery of new trains for the Gospel Oak to Barking line trains are currently being diverted from other Overground lines.

We consider the current disruption complete unacceptable and impacting our residents ability to move around our boroughs, as well as commute to work. There is also ongoing concern about the safety of passengers using the service, and Mayor Glanville has previously raised safety concerns regarding Hackney Central station overcrowding which is linked to the service performance.

So far, TfL and Arriva have not made these policies and recent service statistics public despite calls from Meg Hillier MP. We would like the recent service statistics regarding this line, and reassurances that TfL are working to end the disruption and return to a functioning service on the Overground line.

We understand that Heidi Alexander, Deputy Mayor for Transport, is arranging a meeting with Meg Hillier MP. We would like to include both borough leaders in this meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

John Biggs  
**Mayor of Tower Hamlets**

Philip Glanville  
**Mayor of Hackney**

Meg Hillier MP  
**Hackney South and  
Shoreditch**

Diane Abbott MP  
**Hackney North and Stoke  
Newington**

Jim Fitzpatrick MP  
**Poplar and Limehouse**

Rushanara Ali MP  
**Bethnal Green and Bow**