

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

4th June 2021

Dear Mr Mayor,

Ref: Coach Parking Bay Repurposing and the Effect on Domestic Tourism

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your recent re-election as the Mayor of London.

As you are aware, the London economy has been devastated by the impact of the pandemic, especially the tourism industry, with every element that attracts visitors suffering greatly. Therefore, a strong, safe and sustainable recovery is critical.

The recent launch of the "Let's do London" campaign has given momentum to London's recovery and tour operators across the UK are reporting a sharp upturn in interest. However, the industry is concerned that going forward, group travel may be hampered by the continued repurposing of street space, which has temporarily removed parking facilities for tourist coaches - those situated in Park Lane particularly.

Pre-pandemic, the coach industry played a substantial role in providing the most eco-friendly form of road transportation for tourists to access the capital ([Transport & Environment Statistics: 2021 Annual Report](#)), for those travelling from various destinations within the UK and arriving from overseas by sea, air and rail.

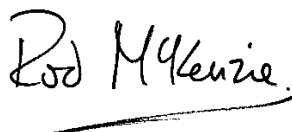
As the tourism industry will be restricted for a significant time, the role of domestic tourism in driving our economic recovery will be paramount. Coach travel is the mode of choice for a considerable portion of domestic tourism, including but not limited to school trips, theatre breaks and museum visits, in addition to providing bespoke door-to-door travel opportunities for the vulnerable and less able.

The travel opportunities and capacity which the coach sector can provide will significantly drive economic recovery, but without facilities for coaches and drivers, London is unable to unlock this. **We would therefore welcome confirmation that the Park Lane coach bays are to be returned to their former use at the earliest opportunity.**

We are also keen to discuss the high premium that daytime and overnight parking has been set at for many years and to discuss with you the positive contribution that the coach industry makes to London.

I eagerly await your reply regarding the issues raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod McKenzie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Rod McKenzie

Managing Director – Policy & Public Affairs