

For London-based businesses ONLY

Direct Vision Standard template letter – copy & paste and send to your London councillor.

Find your councillor here - go to: <https://www.writetothem.com/>.

I am a transport business based in your borough concerned about the proposed changes to the Direct Vision Standard that the Mayor of London wishes to implement from this October. **I write to ask that, when the next meeting of the London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee meets on 21 March, the representative from your council holds Transport for London to account on the issues I set out below including:**

1. Better engagement with businesses over queries surrounding the Direct Vision Standard guidance;
2. Allowing suppliers more time to ensure equipment compliant with the new DVS requirement is available on the market.
3. A financial assistance package for small lorry operators to support their ability to implement the changes during a cost-of-living crisis

Businesses like ours have already invested thousands of pounds on safety equipment on our vehicles such as cameras and audible warnings, and that investment has successfully brought about significant reductions in pedestrian and cyclist incidents.

The Mayor is now keen to push forward with further changes to the Direct Vision Standard. Our industry has already proved we are willing to invest in safety, but we have significant concerns over whether the timetable set by the Mayor and TfL for the installation of new equipment to meet the new requirement is achievable.

Following communications from Logistics UK and the RHA over whether there was enough available equipment and fitters to meet the October deadline, the London Councils asked Transport for London to issue a market readiness survey this month to help inform the process. However, we have concerns that the questions TfL have issued to inform that survey do not allow for a full and fair picture to be established on our sector's ability to comply.

We are also disappointed that TfL has not provided the necessary support to help businesses interpret and implement the new requirements, such as a helpdesk with trained staff available to answer queries or a financial assistance package for small businesses. In addition, we have significant concerns over the current level of real world, real-London testing for these technology devices, and the lack of opportunities for manufacturers to ensure they do the job we all want them to do.

I hope you will agree with me that it when industry is required to meet a new standard that it should be properly tested, that strong communication is maintained throughout and that the most vulnerable businesses are provided with the support they need to make the scheme work.

We are all in favour of better road safety, but we ask that TfL works with the road haulage industry on appropriate road safety measures rather than railroading through a one-sided scheme.

I look forward to hearing from you further.