



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

16 August 2023

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

Dear Sadiq

The decision to scrap the Day Travelcard for rail passengers will cause significant harm to the City of London. The Day Travelcard is a popular and convenient way of purchasing tickets for residents across Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Malling, especially for leisure travel to support the economy in London.

You will see from the enclosed document hundreds of individual comments which have been shared with me by local residents from around Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Malling, each detailing how the decision which you have taken will negatively impact them. Hundreds of people in our area have contacted me directly to share their concern at this decision. There are many, many more who use the Day Travelcard whenever they head to London.

For residents in West Kent, the Day Travelcard allows us to buy our train and tube travel together. None of our stations are located in the Oyster Card area so we will be forced to buy train and tube tickets separately.

Of course we are limited in where we can travel to in London. Trains from Tonbridge and Hildenborough only serve Charing Cross, Cannon Street, Waterloo East, and London Bridge. There are no longer any direct services from Tonbridge to London Victoria via Redhill either. Passengers on the Uckfield line from Edenbridge Town, Hever, and Cowden can only get to London Bridge. Passengers from East Malling, West Malling, and Borough Green can only get to Victoria, other than the new London Bridge and Charing Cross services, but they only run a specific times of the day.

Consequently many of us rely on the tube to get to where we want to go in the capital. There is a huge distance between London Bridge and Victoria, for example, and the reliability of the tube helps attract many of us to visit, and work in London.

Scrapping the Day Travelcard is not only blow for business owners in London who will undoubtedly now see fewer customers, but it is also hitting those on lower incomes the hardest, many of whom relied heavily upon this travelcard to be able to visit London with family members.

Under section 155 (1)(c) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 it is clear that while you have directed Transport for London (TfL) to take steps over the coming six-month period to withdraw Day Travelcards on a date between 1 and 21 January 2024, this is reversible. I cannot stress enough the urgency at which I hope you, and TfL representatives are meeting with the Government to ensure that this decision is reverse before January 2024.

I know you will agree that London is a fantastic city, and those residents who live outside the Greater London boundaries wish to support it. We recognise that the success of London as a place for investment helps the economy in Kent and the broader south east. London needs to be open for business, and that includes those living in commuting distance. Whether it is travel for work or leisure, the Day Travelcard gives an accessibility to residents across Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Malling that allows us to support the economy you look after in London.

Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SP

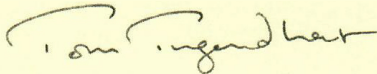
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If you proceed with the decision to scrap the Day Travelcard, this will make the lives of hard working people more difficult. You have made it clear that this decision, over the next five months is a reversible one and I would welcome any steps taken to ensure that this happens. Your proposal is damaging for families, businesses, London, and the UK, it is putting yet more barriers in the way of people who live outside of London being able to visit our capital city.

Please recognise the strength of feeling from residents across Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Malling, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Tugendhat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TOM TUGENDHAT