



Department
for Transport

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Our Ref: 297943

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Dear Dillon Crawford,

Face coverings on public transport

You contacted us regarding the recently viewed footage on social media concerning the use of mandatory face coverings in Nottingham. We have also received your subsequent requests to conduct an internal review with regards to your initial query. I am responding as one of the Department for Transport officials working on this policy. I apologise for the delay in issuing this response – we are currently receiving significant volumes of correspondence.

Please be advised that your request does not refer to specific information the Department would hold. On this basis your queries have been handled as routine correspondence.

As you aware, from 15 June most passengers must wear a face covering when travelling on public transport in England. We recognise that some people are not able to wear a face covering for a variety of reasons and are therefore exempt from wearing a face covering, and as such, we do not expect 100% compliance. This includes children younger than 11, and people with certain health conditions.

In the initial stages, we focused on informing the public of the new requirements. We have asked operators to engage, explain and encourage their passengers, to give the public time to get used to the requirement, and for transport operators to put in place their own plans for enforcement. We

have seen high compliance across the network and there continue to be strong public support for the measure. The latest data from the Office for National Statistics states that 85% of public transport users surveyed in Great Britain wore a face covering.

The regulations made under the Public Health Act 1984 include powers for operators to deny access to a service, or direct someone to leave a service, who is not wearing a face covering. Transport operators have discretion over how they use these powers. As a last resort, if passengers still do not comply with operators' encouragement and instructions without a legitimate exemption, there are powers for the police and Transport for London authorised personnel to issue a fixed penalty notice of £100. We expect these powers to be used proportionately.

Please be assured that as the enforcement plans ramp up, we will continue working closely with operators and the police to monitor and improve levels of compliance and our approach to enforcement.

I hope this gives you some clarification. More detail on the policy, and our Safer Transport guidance for passengers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Yours sincerely,

Covid-19 Directorate