

Lord Mayor William Russell  
City of London

Chief Executive's Office  
St Bartholomew's Hospital  
1 St Martin's Le Grand  
London EC1A 4NP

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[www.bartshealth.nhs.uk](http://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk)

My Lord Mayor

As you know, St Bartholomew's Hospital is part of the Bart's Health NHS Trust employing over 15,000 staff who live in and travel through most London boroughs.

We would like to work collaboratively with the City of London to rapidly develop and implement an Emergency Transport Action Plan within the City ahead of lock down easing to ensure that key workers are able to travel to work safely. We welcome the progress made recently with pavement widening programmes, actions taken on 20 mph speed limit, the Bank junction project and the recent introduction of 'zero emission streets' on Beech Street. We would ask that you accelerate existing plans and consider what more needs to be done to prepare London for post lock down.

The evidence from Wuhan after lock down is of an almost a doubling of private car use. Without action in the UK, we risk the car becoming the default mode of socially-distanced transport and non-car owners (half of the UK population) may have to choose between expensive private hire vehicles, crowded public transport or braving the newly-trafficked streets.

Our hospital staff are increasingly switching to walking and cycling to work in response to the pandemic. The reasons are many; mitigating risk of transmission, supporting physical and psychological well-being, incorporating physical exercise into their daily routine, more convenient or they have always wanted to and only feel enabled now with lower traffic volumes.

We would like to work with you to help create a strategic walking and cycling network:

1. Use temporary materials on key routes - re-purposing traffic lanes and parking spaces for temporary cycle lanes, and widening foot ways to enable safe social distancing.
2. Create transit priority routes that prioritises public transport, walking, those who use mobility aids and cycling
3. Consider closing some streets and junctions to through traffic, implementing low traffic neighbourhoods - this will ensure that everyone has access to street space areas to walk, scoot, cycle and use wheelchairs without the blight of heavy traffic



We need to make active travel a real option for everyone, not just the young and fit and use cars and public transport only for those who have no other option.

Infrastructure for active travel enables people to exercise as part of their daily routine and being physically active is an effective way to reduce rates of various chronic diseases including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The WHO and Public Health England have highlighted the importance of increasing the proportion of journeys made by bicycle or by foot.

The Prime Minister has told regional leaders to encourage people to commute on foot or by bike to help avoid a dramatic increase in car use after lock down. We welcomed the Secretary of State's announcement on Saturday and we very much hope that these initiatives will be installed across the City without delay.

Yours sincerely



Professor Charles Knight  
Chief Executive, St Bartholomew's Hospital  
Consultant Cardiologist  
Professor of Cardiology, William Harvey Research Institute

CC Mr Alastair Moss  
City of London chair planning and transport