

# News Release

# Jenny Jones

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## Two more cyclists killed as further cut to road safety funding revealed

Two cyclists have been tragically killed by lorries in the last two days, since the London mayor launched his cycle safety action plan. One was in Southwark, near to City Hall. The other was in Hackney, near Victoria Park. Eight cyclists died and eighty four were seriously injured in 2008 on roads that the Mayor is proposing to designate as cycling superhighways.

The London Mayor has revealed that Transport for London spending on road safety has dropped by £10m this financial year (2009/10). In addition, it was recently revealed that the Traffic Police budget is due to be cut by £2m next year, with the consequent decline of 20 police officers, 5 PCSOs and 5 staff.

Jenny Jones said:

“Many of us are feeling a mix of sadness and anger at these latest deaths of cyclists in London. This summer, the London Mayor will be encouraging thousands of inexperienced cyclists to use the cycling superhighways and share the roads with some of the main lorry routes through London. The most obvious thing for the Mayor to do is to ban lorries from using these cycling commuter routes at peak times of the day. The least he can do is to re-engineer these routes to give cyclists priority.”

“The mayor’s action plan on cycling safety is inadequate because it has no timetable for implementation. London’s success in halving the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads in the last decade has been based on high levels of investment and tough decisions. All this is now under threat, unless the mayor restores the budget. The cut in the number of traffic police, safety cameras and road safety schemes, is a decision which may cost lives.”

### Notes to editors

#### 1. Road Safety budget

**Question No: 628 / 2010**

[Jenny Jones](#)

What were the TfL and borough budgets for Road Safety in 2008/09 and 2009/10, and what will they be in 2010/11?

**Answer from the Mayor:**

The road safety budgets in 2008/09 and 2009/10 are as follows. This includes the London Safety Camera Partnership funding:

TfL is currently in the process of finalising a new directorate within Surface Transport, in which a number of programmes will sit, including road safety. This directorate is being established to allow the organisation to focus on achieving key outcomes, including casualty reductions, in an integrated and cost effective way.

Programmes and budgets for 2010/11 are being reviewed as part of this wider reorganisation and a breakdown of the 2010/11 budgets is currently unavailable. These programmes and budgets may also need to be revised in the light of the DfT's new national casualty reduction targets when these are published.

It should also be noted that due to reforms in the Local Implementation Plan funding arrangements, from 2010/11 onwards road safety spend will not be separately identified in borough allocations. Progress towards London-wide casualty reduction targets will, however, be one of the key indicators which continues to be reported annually."

2. The Traffic Operational Command Unit has been asked to make £1.1m (5%) efficiency savings which involve getting rid of 5 staff, 3 PC and 5 PCSOs. The bigger cut comes from the Traffic OCU setting up a new unit to replace the Commercial Vehicle Education Unit which was previously based at TfL, with a £1m budget. The new unit consists of 1 x Inspector , 2 x Sergeants and 14 x Constables, costing around £920,000.

This information has been obtained by Jenny through answers from the MPS which can be provided.

3. The mayor has stated that there will be no additional resources for this new commercial vehicle unit, so the unit is created by redeploying resources from other sections within the Traffic OCU. This is effectively a cut around £2m or just under 10% of the Traffic OCU budget.

**Commercial vehicle enforcement (2)**

Question No: 17 / 2010

Jenny Jones

Will there be additional funding in 2010/11 for a commercial vehicle team in the Traffic Operational Command Unit, or will the setting up of a commercial vehicle team require cuts to other areas of work that the Traffic OCU does?

**Answer from the Mayor:**

The MPS Traffic OCU will be able to fund the Commercial Vehicle Unit within existing resources whilst maintaining performance in all their current areas of responsibility.

4. Anne McMeel said in a letter of 28th October, regarding "TfL funding of London Safety Camera Partnership".

"We expect to redeploy some 45 members of staff and, inevitably, this will lead to a reduction in the number of cases handled from a planned 160k a year to around 80k."

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