

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Our ref: Council – Tax Relief - 20201104  
Your ref:



**Mr. Andy Burnham**  
**Mayor of Greater Manchester**  
**Churchgate House**  
**56 Oxford Street**  
**Manchester M1 6EU**

**Chief Executive and Accountable**  
**Officer's Office**  
Level 3, Room 329  
Civic Centre  
West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG

Tel: 0161 770 3852

Dear Mr. Burnham,

**Re: Oldham Council Resolution – Tax Relief for Public Transport**

The full Council at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 agreed the following motion following its referral to Overview and Scrutiny Board:

“This Council notes that:

- In his article for the Daily Telegraph ‘Tax Relief just the Ticket’ (6 October 2013), journalist Boris Johnson called for employees to be ‘allowed to pay for their season tickets from their pre-tax income.’
- Mr Johnson advocated for the introduction of a new tax relief scheme, limited to the basic rate, whereby ‘the employer would buy the season ticket and deduct the cost from his or her (employee’s) pay packet – and only then would the employee be assessed for tax.’
- The impact of such a scheme would mean that employees would have less taxable income reducing their liability for income tax and national insurance and the employer would also save on national insurance contributions.
- An annual season ticket costs a Metrolink tram commuter from Shaw to Manchester £1,154, a Train commuter from Greenfield to Manchester £1,208, and a Bus commuter with First Manchester £670.
- Such a tax-relief scheme would represent a significant financial saving for our Borough’s commuters.
- Council further notes that now Mr Johnson is Prime Minister he has it within his power to put his aspirations for tax relief on seasonal travel tickets into practice.”

Full Council also resolved that I write to you saying that we all should support such a scheme.

Continued.../...

Our Ref: Council – Tax Relief - 20201104

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

- Page 2 -

Full Council resolved that I write to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that this Government introduces a tax relief scheme. This would be on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013) making this effective as soon as possible.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Wilkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE  
Chief Executive, Oldham Council  
Accountable Officer, NHS Oldham CCG  
Email: [Carolyn.Wilkins@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Carolyn.Wilkins@oldham.gov.uk)

**Mr. Andy Burnham**  
**Mayor of Greater Manchester**  
**Churchgate House**  
**56 Oxford Street**  
**Manchester M1 6EU**

**Chief Executive and Accountable**  
**Officer's Office**  
Level 3, Room 329  
Civic Centre  
West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG  
Tel: 0161 770 3852

Dear Mr. Burnham,

**Re: Oldham Council Resolution – Let's Make Street Harassment a Crime**

The full Council at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 debated the following motion:

“This Council is committed to making our Borough a safer place for everyone.

Council notes:

- Public sexual harassment is the most common form of violence against women and girls, restricting their freedom of movement and expression;
- That in surveys two-thirds of women and girls report they have faced street harassment in the UK;
- That street harassment in the UK is not covered by any specific offence, unlike in Portugal, Belgium and France;
- That stopping street harassment would be a powerful step in tackling inequality and keeping women safe;
- The incredible work of Our Streets Now, and their petition which has attracted over 200,000 signatures to make street harassment a specific crime;
- That according to a report by Our Streets Now, only 14 per cent of pupils have been taught about public sexual harassment at school, and that 47 per cent of them would not report an incident of public sexual harassment to their school because they were afraid or feared they would not be taken seriously by staff.

Council recognises:

- That we must create an environment where street harassment is seen and policed as a crime, and where girls feel safer on our streets;
- That we need to work together with our schools to ensure that anyone who is harassed will feel confident that their report will be treated with the respect, care and seriousness that is required;
- That changing the law, and education for our young people, are key planks in combating street harassment, establishing safer streets, and delivering equality.

Continued.../...

Our Ref: Council – Street Harassment - 20201104

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

- Page 2 -

Full Council resolved that I write to the three MPs who cover the Borough, and the Mayor of Greater Manchester / Police and Crime Commissioner, to ask you to show your support for this campaign by signing the petition and by lobbying ministers to make street harassment a specific crime you to ask you to make street harassment a specific crime.

Full Council also resolved that:

- The Our Streets Now campaign to make street harassment a crime be promoted, and all elected members, and residents be encouraged to sign the petition.
- I write to the Home Secretary to ask her to make street harassment a specific crime;
- Schools, academies and colleges in the Borough be asked to each develop a clear policy on tackling harassment, separate to their bullying policy;
- local schools be asked to include education around public sexual harassment as part of the PSHE education; and
- that the recommendations of the Our Schools Now report are communicated to schools with a view to integrating their recommendations into their PSHE teaching.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE  
Chief Executive, Oldham Council  
Accountable Officer, NHS Oldham CCG  
Email: [Carolyn.Wilkins@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Carolyn.Wilkins@oldham.gov.uk)