

Boris Johnson's Broken promises

Promise: protect ticket offices

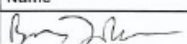
Boris Johnson promised in his election manifesto to ensure *"there is always a manned ticket office at every station"*¹

During the election campaign Johnson signed a petition calling for London Underground to abandon plans to *"drastically reduce the opening hours"* of ticket offices²

Passengers united against ticket office closures

3449sayno.com

We the undersigned reaffirm our opposition to London Underground's intention to shut 40 ticket offices across the Tube network and drastically reduce the opening hours of hundreds more. We say this is NOT in our best interests as passengers and therefore petition London Underground and the Mayor of London to stop the closure of station ticket offices and to re-open those which have already been closed.

Name	Address
	House of Commons W1A 0AA



The reality

On 11th March it was announced that Boris Johnson plans to reduce ticket office opening hours³ and to axe 450 ticket office jobs.

The reduction in ticket offices is part of Boris Johnson's plans to axe 800 jobs across the tube network. Transport unions have warned the cuts will lead "turn London's tube stations into a mugger's paradise"⁴

Promise: Cycle hire scheme "at no cost to taxpayer"



Boris Johnson promised in his manifesto to *"broker a deal with a private company to bring thousands of bikes to the capital at no cost to the taxpayer."*

He said: *"As the scheme in Paris has demonstrated, commercial firms are happy to shoulder the costs of this type of scheme."*⁵

The reality

The Mayor now estimates the scheme will cost Londoners more than £114m to deliver⁶

¹ P.2, *Getting Londoners Moving*, Boris Johnson transport manifesto (2008)

² 3449sayno petition (<http://www.3449sayno.com/keep%20your%20promise.htm>)

³ Transport for London press release, 11 March (<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/14804.aspx>)

⁴ RMT press release, 12 March

(<http://www.rmt.org.uk/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=133371&int1stParentNodeID=89732>)

⁵ P.32 *Getting Londoners Moving*, Boris Johnson transport manifesto (2008)

⁶ Boris Johnson, mayoral answer (14 January 2009)

<http://mqt.london.gov.uk/mqt/public/question.do?id=27803>

Promise: Chair the Met Police Authority

In his manifesto Boris Johnson said, *"I will chair the Metropolitan Police Authority. I will take personal responsibility. No offence will be too trivial to demand my attention. No challenge will be so big that I shrug my shoulders and pass the buck."*¹

He said he would chair the MPA *"to get more officers on the streets"*²



The reality

Boris Johnson resigned as chair of the MPA on 27 January, just twenty months into his mayoralty. He stepped down on the day he announced plans to cut 455 police officers and cut police funding by £16.4m

Promise: End cronyism

In his manifesto Boris Johnson promised to *"end the culture of cronyism at City Hall"*³



The reality

In an attempt to appoint his long-standing friend and ally, Veronica Wadley, to chair the London Arts Council, Boris Johnson interviewed and recommended her despite his own interview panel deciding she was "manifestly the least qualified" candidate. An independent observer at the interview said Wadley "did not meet the required standard"⁴

Boris Johnson interviewed Veronica Wadley and put her forward as the successful candidate only for the appointment to be rejected the secretary of state for culture on the grounds that it breached the Nolan principles on sleaze and cronyism⁵

The Mayor also stood by Bertha Joseph, his deputy chair of London's fire authority - forced to quit after spending almost £1,000 of cash donations intended for children's charities on ball gowns for herself. Joseph was suspended as a councillor for her actions but Boris Johnson resisted calls to remove her from the fire authority. During the five months since she was found guilty, the mayor approved her promotion to the £20k a year deputy chair position and only accepted her resignation once she had voted through his half billion pound fire budget.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/mar/19/boris-johnson-bertha-joseph-london>

¹ P.4, *Making London Safer*, Boris Johnson crime manifesto (2008)

² P.10, *Ibid*

³ P.3, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, Boris Johnson accountability manifesto (2008)

⁴ Dame Liz Forgan (chair, Arts Council) to Mick Elliot (director, Culture, DCMS), (18 August 2009) http://extras.timesonline.co.uk/pdfs/4088_001.pdf

⁵ *Boris Johnson 'broke rules by proposing ally for top London arts job*, The Times (8 October 2009) <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6865287.ece>



Promise: Cut press officers

Boris Johnson promised to *"release funds that Ken Livingstone has earmarked for his own personal press officers"*¹

He said in the run up to the election that his predecessor had *"more press officers than the Prime Minister"* and promised to spend *"less money on press officers and more on police officers"*²

He also said *"the MPS employs 73 press staff with salary costs of £3.6 million". And promised to reduce "the number of press staff to 50"*³

The reality

Boris Johnson has thirteen press officers working in his office. The same number as his predecessor.⁴

The Met's publicity department (Directorate of Public Affairs) currently has 74 posts (more than when Boris was elected, according to his own figures) and is spending £3.7m on salaries (more than when Boris was elected).⁵ There are still 50 press officers working the Met - the same number as before Boris Johnson's election.⁶

Promise: Build 50,000 affordable homes by 2011

Boris Johnson promised to *"build 50,000 more affordable homes by 2011"*. He said, *"There is no question that we need more housing. We will meet this challenge with a commitment to build 50,000 new affordable homes by 2011"*.⁷



The reality

The Mayor has since admitted that they won't all be "new" as promised. They won't be built by 2011⁸ and they won't all be "built". The 50,000 will actually include regenerated houses, unsold private homes and anything which receives a grant.¹⁰

Almost one million Londoners are waiting for a social rented home. According to Shelter, 15,000 people are living in seriously over-crowded conditions.

¹ P.7, *Making London Safer*, Boris Johnson crime manifesto (2008)

² P.3, *Ibid*

³ P.16, *Ibid*

⁴ Boris Johnson, mayoral answer (16 December 2009)

<http://mqt.london.gov.uk/mqt/public/question.do?id=29099>

⁵ MPA Directorate of Public Affairs, Thematic performance report (4 February 2010)

<http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/sop/2010/100204/06/>

⁶ Boris Johnson, mayoral answer (17 March 2010)

<http://mqt.london.gov.uk/mqt/public/question.do?id=30887>

⁷ P.2 *Building a Better London*, Boris Johnson housing manifesto (2008)

⁸ P.14 *Ibid*

⁹ *Mayor admits housing goal will be missed*, Inside Housing (2 December 2009)

<http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/story.aspx?storycode=6507565>

¹⁰ *Boris Johnson reviews homes target*, Local Government Chronicle (26 February 2009)

<http://www.lgcplus.com/news/boris-johnson-reviews-homes-target/1997449.article>



Promise: no-strike deal

Boris Johnson promised to *"negotiate a no-strike deal...with the Tube unions"*¹.

As recently as December he said: *"My aim remains to negotiate an agreement with the Tube unions.... We will continue to work constructively with all unions....with the same ultimate objective - an end to annual strike ballots on the Underground."*²

The reality

Boris Johnson has not met even once with transport trade unions to discuss his fantasy policy.

One union say the issue has never been discussed with them at any time and that they have had no direct contact with the Mayor at all on any transport issues. Another said they had never been approached by the Mayor's office and the question has never been put to them.

There were 5,527 shifts lost to industrial action on the underground and 4,557 on the bus network last year³.

Promise: Re-instate Blackwall tunnel tidal flow

In his transport manifesto, Boris Johnson promised to *"put the commuter first...by reinstating tidal flow at the Blackwall tunnel"*⁴

The reality

The Mayor admitted he would break the promise last month when he told LBC radio: "If I were to impose my will and say restore that contraflow and if there was then to be some huge conflagration in that tunnel and there were fatalities I'm afraid then under the present law of corporate manslaughter brought in by this Labour government then the tragedy is that I would be liable."

One of his Tory colleagues described the u-turn as "a huge disappointment because it does create congestion unnecessarily"⁵



¹ P.6, *Getting Londoners Moving*, Boris Johnson transport manifesto (2008)

² Boris Johnson, mayoral answer, 9/12/09 <http://mqt.london.gov.uk/mqt/public/question.do?id=28986>

³ Boris Johnson, mayoral answer, 16/12/09 <http://mqt.london.gov.uk/mqt/public/question.do?id=29109>

⁴ P.2, *Getting Londoners Moving*, Boris Johnson transport manifesto (2008)

⁵ Spencer Drury, interview with Greenwich.co.uk (9 March 2010) <http://www.greenwich.co.uk/news/02890-spencer-drury-interview-pt.1/>