

ABENA OPPONG-ASARE MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ERITH AND THAMESMEAD

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SHADOW CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3 June 2020

Dear Patrick Verwer

I am writing to you in light of the deeply saddening death of Belly Mujinga. I have been contacted by a huge amount of concerned constituents regarding the circumstances surrounding Ms Mujinga's death.

Firstly, I would be grateful if you could provide an explanation as to why Ms Mujinga was not provided with PPE in relation to her existing health condition whilst working under your employment. This is concerning for many of my constituents and I would be grateful if you could shed some light on this situation.

Secondly, as London begins to ease out of lockdown and more people are beginning to use public transport, it is my utmost priority that all public facing staff are protected.

I am aware that Government action plan for providing PPE throughout the crisis states that:

“WHO (World Health Organisation) and UK guidance follows the science and is not advising the use of masks in public places and for those working in supermarkets, waste collection, schools, transport and similar settings.”

However, given the fact that 33 London transport workers have now died from COVID-19 and the recent incident with Ms Mujinga, I believe that there remains a real threat to human life if public facing transport workers are not provided with PPE.

I have written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson to request that his Government support the transport sector in providing this PPE and hope that you will see some assistance from the Government in the near future.

In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could provide an update that I am able to share with constituents regarding any plans to provide PPE.

I appreciate that we cannot turn back the clock and prevent this awful situation from happening, but we can act urgently to prevent more unnecessary loss of life going forward.

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I do hope that you will be able to provide a helpful and timely response to this letter so that workers returning to work on public transport and those that have faced the daily risk of working on public transport throughout the peak of the crisis, can feel protected as we begin to ease lockdown.

Please quote the reference number (AO1559) when responding to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abena', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Abena Oppong-Asare MP