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A large number of my constituents have recently been affected by the completely disproportionate fare rise in the off-peak travelcard, introduced by Transport for London (TfL), shortly after Christmas.

As you are no doubt aware, this decision has seen a price rise of over 30 per cent for adults in some instances, and worse, over 60 per cent for children on particular lines. As you can imagine, such an exponential increase has had a severely adverse impact on residents across my constituency, in many cases discouraging passengers from making much needed journeys between Bromley and London. This type of ticket is particularly popular with families and children, and it is this demographic – who, in many cases, have less disposable income than others - that will be hardest hit by this change.

I of course welcomed the Government's proposal to cap rail fares at the rate of inflation, ensuring passengers are not unduly burdened by unfair and inappropriate costs for what is, for many, especially in southeast London, an essential service. However, this move to put the passenger first is completely undermined if operators are to then hike up prices for other customers.

No one disputes the need to incrementally increase the cost of fares so that a good level of service can be maintained, but at a time when TfL are working along the motto '*Every journey matters to us*', many of my constituents find it frankly disingenuous to raise the price of the off-peak travelcard – without much warning or publicity, I might add – so steeply.

I would be grateful if you could outline the rationale behind this decision, and would urge you to review this change as a matter of urgency.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

**Bob Neill MP**