

Olympic and Paralympic Route Network – Parliament Square to Vauxhall Cross

How this could affect you

To keep traffic moving on these priority routes, there will be some temporary changes to the way the road can be used. They are expected to operate during the Olympic Games only and shortly before and after for the arrival and departure of the Games Family.

The proposed changes include:

- Games Lanes will only be open to the official Games vehicles, and either local buses, or local buses, motorcycles, and cycles between 7am – 7pm (except on Vauxhall Bridge Road towards Vauxhall Cross, which will operate 24 hours)
- There will be some banned right turns into and out of Millbank, the suspension of a zebra crossing, and reduced parking and loading facilities
- Access to Parliament Square via Great College Street will be limited to official Games vehicles, local buses and cycles between 7am – 7pm
- The westbound lanes of Westminster Bridge (County Hall to Westminster) will only be open to official Games vehicles, buses and cycles 24 hours a day (this will be for both Olympic and Paralympic Games)
- The Barclays Cycle Superhighway on Millbank will be suspended where necessary northbound from Vauxhall Bridge Road to Lambeth Bridge and southbound from Lambeth Bridge to Thorney Street
- Temporary changes to traffic signal timings will be needed when the network is being used by Games vehicles to ensure the smooth flow of traffic on the ORN. This may affect traffic on the approaches to the ORN and motorists are advised to consider alternative routes, as well as reducing their overall need to travel during Games time

Please visit tfl.gov.uk/ORN for full details of proposed changes.

Key points to note

- The proposed road changes are temporary and required to meet the needs of the London 2012 Games. They will operate 24 hours a day unless otherwise stated
- The time required for installing and removing some physical measures will be advised at a later date and may extend the period that the changes are in place
- Parking, loading and waiting controls remain unaltered unless otherwise stated
- This design may change if the needs of the London 2012 Games alter

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Olympic and Paralympic Route Network?

The Olympic Route Network/Paralympic Route Network (ORN/PRN) is part of London's successful bid to host the 2012 Games. It is made up of a number of roads that link all competitions and key venues, so that athletes, officials, media and others working at the Games can get to events easily and on time.

A number of temporary traffic changes will be needed to make sure the ORN/PRN remains open and free from congestion. These changes might include different traffic signal timings, side road closures to general traffic or the suspension of parking, loading and waiting bays.

Does this mean roads on the ORN/PRN will be out of bounds to everyone except Games traffic?

No. In most cases, roads on the ORN will remain open to general traffic. Some roads will also have a designated Games Lane, which will only be available to the Olympic Family, including athletes, officials, media and others working at the Games, and emergency vehicles. When this happens, there will be another lane available for general traffic. You should, however, expect general traffic around the ORN/PRN to be more congested and should bear this in mind when you plan your journey.

How long will the ORN/PRN be in operation?

The ORN and associated traffic changes will operate during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and shortly before and after them for the arrival and departure of the Games Family. Some sections will last for a shorter period because they will not be needed for the Paralympic Games.

Will restrictions on the ORN apply 24 hours a day?

Restrictions on the ORN will vary from place to place, but will generally apply 24 hours a day. Hours of operation for Games Lanes are typically 6am – midnight unless otherwise stated. Once finalised, information about all the changes will be published locally and on the TfL website.

Will the ORN/PRN be in use between the Olympic and Paralympics?

There is a transition period between the end of the Olympic Games and the start of the Paralympic Games. During this time, thousands of athletes, officials and spectators will be leaving and arriving in London. The operating times and dates of the ORN/PRN are being reviewed and exact details will be confirmed in nearer the time though it is expected that most restrictions will be removed in between the two periods.

Why is special treatment being given to VIPs, rather than residents and businesses?

The ORN and PRN were a core part in the success of London's bid to host the 2012 Games. It is a tried and tested approach that has been used to transport the Olympic Family in previous Games in Sydney, Athens, Beijing and Vancouver. The ORN/PRN ensures the people who 'make the Games happen' can reach their venues in time for their events. London wants to make sure all those who have worked so hard to compete in the Games are given the best possible chance to succeed.

The work carried out to produce the ORN/PRN will mean that Londoners will benefit in the longer term from better traffic signalling, a new Traffic Coordination Centre and new CCTV and junction upgrades, which will make it easier to move through London.

