

FAQs

What is the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting?

Between 16 and 20 April, the UK will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The Commonwealth is a diverse community of 53 nations, spread across six continents of the world, that work together to promote prosperity, democracy and peace.

Throughout the week, events will take place across venues in both London and Windsor; involving leaders, Foreign Ministers and thousands of visitors from across the Commonwealth. The purpose of CHOGM is to celebrate the Commonwealth's diversity and values, and for world leaders to agree how to work together to create a more secure, prosperous, sustainable and fair Commonwealth for all its citizens.

Who is responsible for this event?

The event has been organised by Her Majesty's Government. Working closely with Westminster City Council, TfL, the Metropolitan Police, the Royal Parks, City of London Police and the City of London Corporation, as well as other partner organisation, to minimise disruption to travel.

Why are the roads being closed?

With an event of this size, the policing and security in place reflects the significance of planned CHOGM events. The safety of the invited delegations, guests and the public who live in, travel through and work in the areas affected is our priority. Additional security measures will be in place throughout the week and this means pedestrians and road users may be affected around St James's Park, Hyde Park, The Green Park and surrounding areas, as well as around Mansion House, the Guildhall and Fenchurch Street in the City of London.

Full details of the impact can be found in the venue factsheets at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

How long will this affect me?

While set-up of the security measures in some areas will start earlier, road and pedestrian access will start to be limited around most CHOGM venues from Saturday 14 and are likely to be lifted by Sunday 22 April. Some areas will only be affected for one day during the week including Fenchurch Street (Wednesday 18 April), Mansion House (Wednesday 18 April) and Royal Albert Hall (Saturday 21 April).

Full details of the dates of impact can be found in the venue factsheets on www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

What is happening in the Royal Parks?

There are numerous events taking place in and around the Royal Parks and adjacent properties during CHOGM. This area has been designated as the 'Commonwealth Village' and, during the week, additional security measures will be in place to protect members of the public, residents and those attending or working at the events.

As well as hosting a number of events a Media Centre is located in the 'Commonwealth Village' and live broadcasting locations will also be situated within the Royal Parks.

Vehicle and Pedestrian movements in and around the 'Commonwealth Village' will vary on a daily basis; the detail for the restrictions in place on each day are included in the Royal Parks and Commonwealth Village factsheet at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

Why are security barriers being installed?

The security deployed is designed to protect members of the public, residents and those attending or working at the events held in the 'Commonwealth Village'; and will include the closure of roads with robust access and egress restrictions in place. These security measures and restrictions are not as a result of any specific intelligence and are a precautionary measure to keep people safe and secure.

Can I still walk through the Royal Parks?

Pedestrian access through the Royal Parks will be maintained from all entry points; however, on some days, pedestrians may be directed to take other routes through the parks. These alternative routes will be clearly sign posted.

Pedestrian routes south from Piccadilly through Queen's Walk will close at key times; these will be advertised at the gate by Green Park Station and alternate routes will be sign posted.

In The Green Park, the pedestrian passageway from Queen's Walk through to Cleveland Row will be closed for the duration of CHOGM. Alternative routes will be advertised. Full details can be found in the Royal Parks factsheet at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

Can I drive through the parks?

Restricted vehicle access into the Royal Parks will be maintained unless there are specific events on within the park or at the 'Commonwealth Village'. On these occasions the Royal Parks will become predominantly traffic free with access only available for drivers and vehicles with approved accreditation. Overnight, it is intended that full unrestricted vehicle access will be allowed through all through Royal Park routes. Full details of road closures in the parks can be found in the Royal Parks factsheet at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

I am planning to drive through the affected area during the week? What should I do?

On event days, there will be no unauthorised vehicle access to key streets around the venues. Certain roads through St James's Park, The Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens will also be affected. Road closures and alternate routes will be signposted and also advertised in advance by TfL using their website and social media. Road closures may last for several hours; however, around key venues, they will be in place for many days.

For drivers who are passing through the area, including those regularly commuting, you may want to consider alternative routes during CHOGM 2018. TfL and other travel advice sites offer route planning services.

Why can't I ride my bike?

While security measures and vehicle restrictions are in place, cyclists may be asked to dismount their bikes at certain times to ensure the safety of pedestrians. Full details of impact to cyclists can be found in the factsheets.

My bus route is affected? Where can I find alternative routes?

You can check affected bus routes and alternative travel options at www.tfl.gov.uk/chogm-travel

My home/place of work is within one of these cordons. Will I need to go through security screening?

Access for residents, businesses, their staff and visitors, park users and event staff and ticket holders will be managed via access control points. Residents will be asked to provide proof of ID and address (e.g. driving licence/passport). Those who work in the area or visitors will be asked for proof of ID and proof of purpose for visit (e.g. a staff pass).

Will I be allowed to get my vehicle to my place of work/home within the secure cordon?

Park Lane, the Commonwealth Village and QEII

You will need to provide photographic identification and proof of residency, for (eg. driving licence) or proof that you work at an address (eg. a staff pass).

This should allow you to proceed into the secure cordon. However, depending on certain circumstances, the police may ask to check or search your car as a condition of entry as part of specific legislation that has been recommended and authorised. For more details please see the Park Lane and the 'Commonwealth Village' factsheets at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

Royal Albert Hall

Access to residents parking may be affected on 21 April. Residents will be able to access parking but this may not be in their usual space. The Police will liaise with residents prior to the event. Residents and delivery drivers will need to provide proof of ID and address and reason for visit. For more details please see the Royal Albert Hall factsheet at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

Fenchurch Street

There will be no vehicle access into the cordon during the closures on Wednesday 18 April. For more details please see the City of London factsheet at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

Guildhall/Mansion House

Vehicle access will not be allowed through the secure cordon from 6am on 16 April – 11.59pm on 18 April. For more details please see the City of London factsheet at www.chogm2018.org.uk/attending

I am not being allowed into my home/workplace. What should I do?

Residents and people who work within the security cordons will need to provide proof of address and/or proof of purpose for their visit (such as a work pass).

I am due to make a delivery at an address in one of the secure cordons. Will I be able to?

CHOGM organisers have coordinated access for key deliveries to venues inside the security cordon and work continues to inform local residents and businesses in the vicinity to advise on business continuity. Delivery drivers (to all businesses inside of the security cordon) would need to show a delivery docket, recipients address and also photo ID before being allowed to proceed through the security checkpoint with goods on foot; or recipient collects from gate. Unauthorised delivery vehicles will not be allowed into the security cordon.

Will my recycling/rubbish collection be affected?

Waste and recycling collections in Westminster will be affected during CHOGM. Collections will take place as soon as access is possible by the council's collections crews. If you need to discuss your collections please contact commercialwaste@westminster.gov.uk or phone 020 7641 6180. If you employ the services of a private waste collector, please contact your collector for assistance.