CYCLING SURVEY REPORT LSE 2015/2016











EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In summer 2015, a survey of LSE staff and students was conducted to understand their views on cycling in and around the School. 433 people responded, 59% of whom were cyclists. This report presents the survey's findings, and recommendations for how LSE can improve its support for cycling and cyclists.

Respondents were motivated to cycle as a means to attain physical fitness and for the convenience and low travel costs. They wanted to see the following improvements:

- Install more secure indoor bike parking, and covered outdoor parking, to reduce overcrowding during peak hours.
- Increase flexibility of evening / night parking, and ensure opening hours are consistent with other campus facilities (especially in the NAB).
- Co-locate bike parking with showers and lockers.
- Enhance two-way communication between Estates and cyclists, to raise the profile of cycling facilities, and make it easier for people to give feedback on maintenance issues.
- LSE should support the establishment of a Bicycle User Group, for students and staff to exchange information and engage in local discussions on London cycling infrastructure and safety.

LSE Cycling Survey 2015

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1. Introduction

In 2014, a School survey conducted to understand commuting habits showed that at least 40% of journeys made by students and staff were made on foot or by bicycle. The survey responses suggested that more could be done to improve cycle facilities and safety on the campus and in neighbouring areas. In this new survey, conducted during Summer Term 2015, staff and students were asked to share their views on cycling to and around the LSE campus. The survey aimed to help improve local cycling infrastructure and on-campus facilities by collecting data on cycling routes and travel patterns.

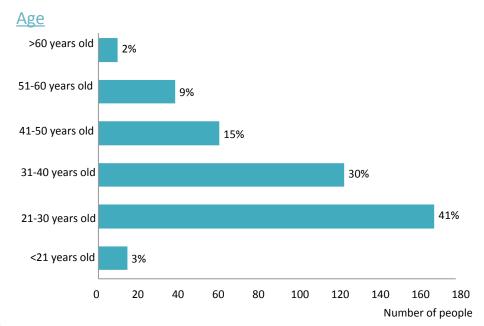
This report is sponsored by the Sustainable Projects Fund, which provides funding and support for student and staff initiatives to enhance LSE's environmental sustainability. The Fund is run by the LSESU Sustainable Futures Society, with support from the LSE Estates Division.

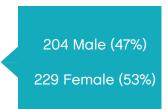
2. Survey respondent profile

433 people responded to the survey:

160 Students (37% of total respondents), including 53 PhD, 78 Postgraduate, 29 Undergraduate students 1% of total LSE student population

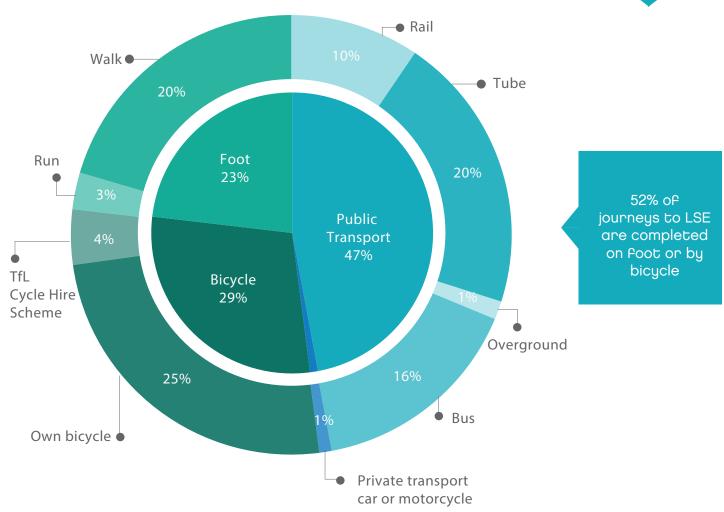
273 Staff (63% of total respondents), Including academic, research and professional service staff 13% of total LSE staff population



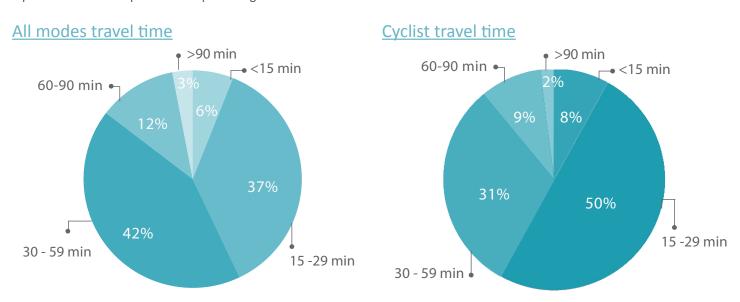




3. Key statistics: Daily commuting



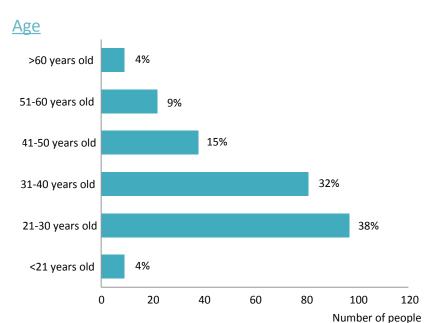
Note: Please note that respondents could choose more than one answer if using a combination of transport modes in their daily trips. This chart corresponds to the percentage of each mode within all modes selected.





4. Cycling Activity

257 respondents commuted to LSE by bicycle (57% of total respondents) 98 Students (40%) 149 Staff (60%)







Most cyclists were commuting to LSE frequently (3-7 days a week). A small proportion were seasonal cyclists, riding during the warmer months.

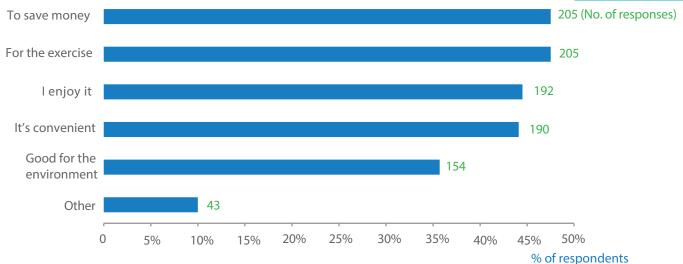
Reason for cycling

Cyclists had multiple reasons for cycling, but getting excercise and saving money were the most popular responses. A significant number of respondents gave additional reasons for commuting by bike. Almost half of these answers were to the effect that cycling to LSE saved them time. Other reasosns given involved the inefficiency and lack of reliability of public transport.

141 Male (57%)

106 Female (43%)

70% of cyclists were between 21 and 40 years of age

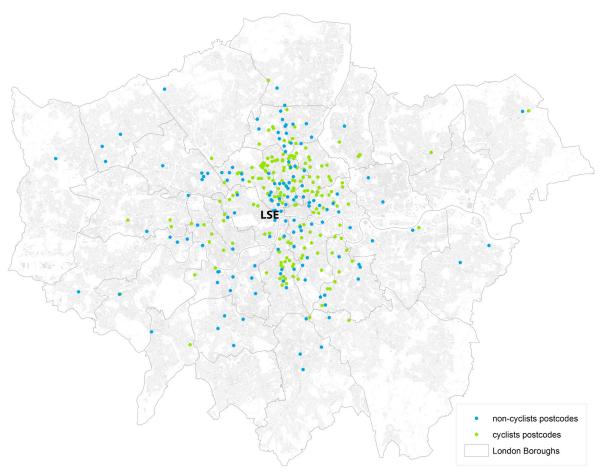


Note: respondents could choose more than one answer.



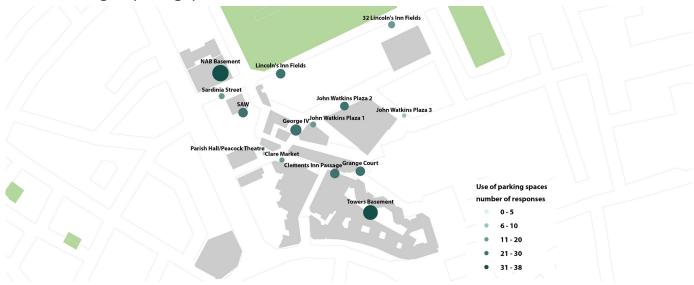
5. Commuting routes

Postcodes corresponding to the start of respondents' journeys are mapped below. 8% of respondents started their journey outside of London, from places such as Bristol, Cambridge, Surrey, Oxford and Hertfordshire. 3% of commutes combined train and cycling, with a number of respondents commuting via Waterloo train station.



Parking

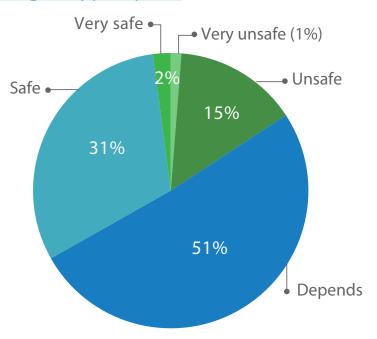
The following map shows the locations of cycle parking used by respondents around the LSE campus. A third of respondents parked either in the NAB building (16%) or in the Tower's basement (15%). Almost 20% of staff respondents (10% of total respondents) reported carrying their bicycles to their offices, to avoid spending too much time looking for parking spaces.





6. Cycling safety

Cycling safety perceptions



"Lack of cycle segregation on roadways is extremely unsafe, particularly around High Holborn and Kingsway. I, like many others, opt to illegally cycle or walk through the Great Turnstile footpath at the North East corner of Lincoln's Inn Field as it is the only safe way of entering the LSE campus area."

Anonymous respondent

A third of survey respondents reported that they felt safe while cycling to LSE, but half felt that their perceptions of safety depended on factors such as rush hour traffic and bad weather conditions. 140 additional comments were submitted to express concerns about the safety of cycle journeys to and from LSE.

Heavy traffic and road congestion

Hazardous junctions; roads obstructed by construction works; poorly maintained roads;

Not enough dedicated cycle lanes; intimidating traffic forcing respondents to use side roads exclusively

Some had experienced accidents that had made them feel less safe when cycling

"I feel safe until all the cycle lanes end around the Brunswick centre. The cycle lanes all continue on to UCL but don't go on to LSE or Kings. The main road - Southampton row, Kingsway- is very dangerous and one corner is lethal for cyclists. Surely there is enough demand from students and staff at LSE and Kings to have a proper dedicated cycle lane from the north (Camden area) into LSE/Kings area?"

Anonymous respondent

25% of female cyclists said they felt safe

39% of male cyclists said they

Many non-cyclists expressed concerns about cycling safety and the number of accidents on the streets, and even said they would consider cycling to LSE if they felt the road was safer. The most concerning areas around campus for respondents are The Strand and Kingsway. Additionally, many commented on the dangerous roundabouts around Waterloo Bridge. Many of the comments on this question repeatedly pointed out streets with heavy traffic and dangerous junctions. Highbury roundabout was also mentioned as a critical area (not shown on the map). The following map shows the most dangerous streets identified by respondents.

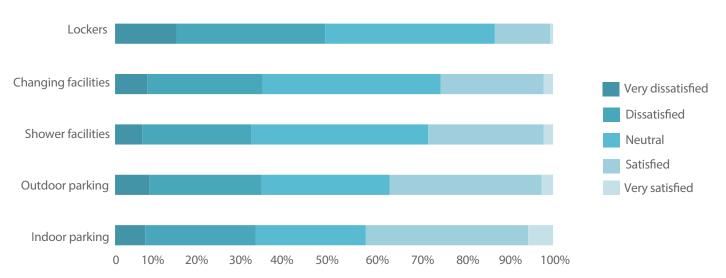


Unsafe cycling areas



7. Improving cycling commuting

Cycling infrastructure satisfaction

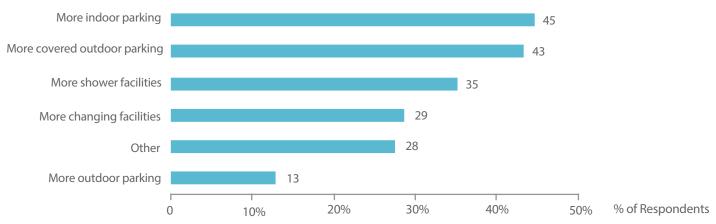


43% of respondents were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with indoor parking facilities. The greatest dissatisfaction was expressed in regards to lockers, where 48% of respondents said that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.



Suggestions for improvement

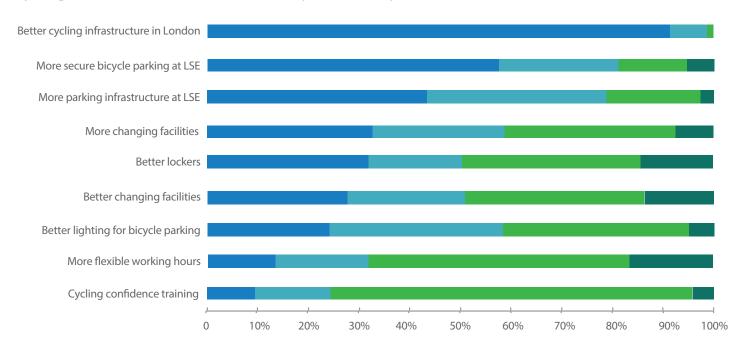
The following chart shows the responses of cyclists when asked in what ways could LSE improve cycling facilities.



Note: respondents could choose more than one answer.

67 comments were submitted by respondents who chose the 'other' option. Of these comments, 14 asked for more secure parking and CCTV surveillance, both indoor and outdoor; 11 wanted more TFL bicycle share stations.

Cycling facilities and infrastructure: improvement priorities



Aside from rating the importance of what could improve the cycling experience, 102 extra comments were submitted by cyclists, and by non-cyclists. Interestingly, male/female and staff/students requests varied. Women highlighted the lack of available changing facilities, not only showers but rooms with lockers and hangers to change clothes. Men focused on the availability of lockers and parking facilities. Staff were more concerned with shower and changing facilities while students mentioned the need for longer parking hours and overnight parking.

Not at all Important
Somewhat Important
Extremely Important
n/a

Suggestions fell into five categories: Parking, Lockers, Changing Facilities, Information, Others.



Cycle parking

According to the survey, parking is a key factor affecting the cycling experience. More secure parking and more parking availability are of high importance to respondents. There were also several extra requests and comments regarding parking infrastructure.

Of the 102 additional comments submitted:

- 31 requested more covered outdoor parking and more easily accessible racks
- 21 were concerned about parking security around campus, surveillance and CCTV
- 11 commented on the inconvenient access to NAB underground parking (numerous doors and corridors to navigate, security checks)
- 3 respondents requested changes to the hours of permitted indoor parking, to give cyclists the option of leaving the bike in a secure place overnight, for instance in case of bad weather

Secure indoor parking was also of concern. Cyclists requested CCTV surveillance and improvements, especially in the Towers basement. Others requested permission to keep bicycles inside offices, arguing that parking facilities are often inconveniently far away.

"Underground bike storage places on campus you are not allowed to leave your bike there overnight! This is a problem particularly in winter. When I might want to cycle in the morning, and leave the bike here overnight (perhaps it's raining, or I am tired). It would be useful to be able to leave the bike somewhere overnight"

Anonymous respondent

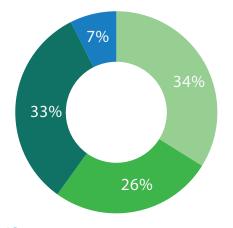
Lockers

Many comments were received requesting more lockers. This could be taken into account in future surveys. A large number of these concerned the lack of lockers located near to parking facilities.

"Apart from the NAB (where lockers are snapped up fast), there are no places where all three are in the same location. So I've been locking my bike under Towers, walking to Old Building basement to shower and get things from locker (themselves located at opposite ends of the basement area) It's a bit of a faff and adds a lot of time to commuting which stops it being quicker than taking the tube. I still prefer to cycle but it would be better if the facilities were located all in the same place"

Anonymous respondent

Changing Facilities



- 21 respondents stated that there were not enough showers available:
- 19 respondents mentioned the lack of changing facilities, with seating spaces and hanger/racks
- 10 respondents commented on the need of hangers for wet clothes and towels

Not Important
Somewhat Important
Extremely Important

Other recurrent comments indicated that cleaning standards of existing facilities are poor, and that maintenance and repairs take a long time when something needs to be fixed.



Information

A large group of respondents requested more easily accessible information on campus and online about cycling infrastructure available including showers, lockers, parking and repairs. Many respondents reported that that they didn't know how to hire a locker or where these were available, and that they were unaware about changing facilities or available air pumps. There was a general consensus that staff and students cycling to LSE could be better informed about existing infrastructure. They could also benefit from sharing information with other cyclists:

- Buying and selling bicycles when courses end second hand bicycle sale
- Information about safe roads around campus
- Sharing of cyclist tips
- Discounts and events
- Maintenance tips and workshops for bicycle repair

"It would be useful to find other people who commute on bikes from my local area. I have recently bought a bike, but haven't plucked up the courage to travel to work on it yet. Travelling in groups would be easier and safer, so finding others who do a similar route to me and would be able to help build new riders' confidence, would be brilliant."

Anonymous respondent

Additional suggestions: cyclists

The survey's also asked for suggestions for improving LSE cycling facilities. Analysis of the extensive qualitative data submitted by respondents (221 comments) is summarised in the grid below.



31 additional comments requested more secure outdoor parking, and 11 mentioned again NAB parking access



17 additional comments requesting more bicycle maintenance stands



23 additional requests for better showers and changing facilities. 2 people asked for staff-only showers



5 comments requesting hair dryers in changing facilities



16 more people requested more TfL bicycle share stations



3 additional comments requesting more flexible parking hours

It is clear from the survey that problems with parking and storage infrastructure were a great frustration for cyclists. A very large number of comments were received relating to better access routes to the campus in its immediate vicinity, such as lobbying the councils for safer roads, presentation of a formal petition from LSE for more cycling infrastructure (north/south and east/west Cycle Superhighways), and negotiating an increase of the TFL docking stations in the area.



Additional suggestions: Non-cyclists

What was least important for cyclists, "cycle confidence training", turned out to be the most common comment by non-cyclists. Most non-cyclists expressed that their hesitations to commute by bicycle related primarily to safety rather than to the available infrastructure at LSE. However, some stated that they were unaware of where to get information about cycling, such as secure routes, TfL bicycles, parking and changing facilities. A significant number of non-cyclist respondents proposed having a cyclist web-platform where people could share their routes to and from LSE with tips and best practices.

Recommendations



It is clear from the survey that limitations in LSE's parking and storage infrastructure are a cause of frustration for cyclists. Although many respondents praised LSE's campus parking facilities, more than half argued that there was still not enough to meet demand, especially in terms of covered outdoor parking. There were also problems with NAB parking facilities, particularly regarding to access and early closing hours. Respondents noted that lockers were not situated near parking and changing facilities.

Overall, the survey showed clearly that there is great interest and demand for cycling infrastructure. Many respondents took the time to provide detailed comments and suggestions. Many students and staff members felt that although LSE has adequate infrastructure provision, there is still room for improvement to meet the needs of current cyclists and attract new cyclists. 103 respondents provided their email addresses to be included in a bicycle user group (BUG) for LSE. A BUG could provide a forum for students and staff cyclists to come together and discuss how to campaign for greater local road safety and improve infrastructure for cyclists, while improving cycling facilities in and around the School.

LSE should consider a more active communication strategy to inform cyclists of campus cycling facilities and of any temporary changes in those facilities because of construction works. LSE should also encourage feedback on the use and maintenance of cycling facilities. A possible alternative would be to create an online platform to share information on routes, where people could input their experience and recommend best routes, and indicate useful resources for cyclists on the campus and in the surrounding areas. The website could also include links to local London Cycling Campaign groups, 'buddy' schemes and bike training funded by local councils.



Other suggestions would be to promote more 'cycling day events', where people are encouraged to ride their bicycles to LSE. Furthermore, LSE could also organize bicycle tours/rides during the summer or in introduction week as a way to attract non-cyclists to gain confidence in riding through London streets in groups around the university area, and to meet other cyclists. Social media such as Facebook and/or Instagram accounts could also be another way to promote and improve cycling. Hashtags such as #LSEcycling could be used by students and staff to share routes, recommendations and suggestions in a more active way.



8. Summary

- 433 survey respondents
- 257 respondents commuted to LSE by bike
- Respondents percieved cycling as money-and time-saving, ecologically friendly and healthy
- Commuting times to LSE vary with the majority taking more than 30 min and less than 1hour
- Respondents wanted to see:
 - co-location of complementary facilities as parking, locks and showers
 - improvement of indoor facilities with flexibility to accommodate night time parking
 - NAB parking was seen as inconvenient and hard to navigate
 - more outdoor covered parking
 - better security around parking areas (indoor and outdoor)
- Staff members used thier offices to store thier bikes because of problems with existing facilities
- Safety of cycling is a major issue preventing more people cycling to LSE
- Better communication systems are needed:
 - for cyclists to inform Estates of maintenance issues
 - for the School to inform cyclists of existing facilities and where those facilities are located
 - to create an interface for exchange of tips and information between cyclists at LSE
- A number of people expressed an interest in creating a cycle user group
- A strong cycle user group at LSE could help lobbying for better road infrastructure in the vicinity of LSE (e.g. more cycling lanes)

9. LSE Cycling Survey Team

LSE Health and Social Care:

Esther Sidley
Cate Henderson
Martin Wenzl
Jackie Damant
Alessandra Ferrario
Madeleine Stevens
Gemma Williams
Thandeka Mhlantla (Green Impact Project Assistant)

LSE Cities:

Alexandra Gomes Clara Rasore

LSE Sustainability team (advisors):

Jon Emmett Vyvyan Evans

10. Survey Questionnaire

Block	2
IN	TRODUCTION
on	2014, a School survey showed that at least 40% of journeys made by students and staff are made foot or by bicycle. The survey responses suggested that more could be done to improve cycle illities and safety on the campus and in neighbouring areas.
no	this new survey we are asking for your views on cycling to and around the LSE campus, whether or t you currently cycle. On completing the survey you can enter a prize draw for a £25 Waterstones ucher.
op tra	ist questions of this survey will be mandatory although some such as the postcode question are itonal. However, by helping us with these we will be better able to understand routes, distances and vel patterns of cyclists and that will give us better tools to improve LSE facilities. This information I not be used for any other purposes.
Th	e survey will take approximately five minutes and will be completely anonymous.
Th	ank you for participating in our survey. Your responses are very important to us.
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	Not at all important	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	n/a
Cycle confidence training	0	0	0	0	0	0
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More parking around LSE	0	0		0		
More secure cycle parking at SE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Better lighting for bike parking at LSE	0		0		0	
More flexible working hours	0	0				0
More changing facilities	0	0				0
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How long does it take you to comm	nute to the LSE?
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30-59min	
○ 60-90min	
>90min	
In your commute to LSE which tran	nsport modes do you use? (choose as many options as apply)
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□ DLR	Walk
Overground	☐ Car
Bicycle (own bike)	☐ Motorcycle
TFL cycle hire scheme	Other (please specify)
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CYCLING ACTIVITY	
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2 Showers	6	lectric charging point		
3 London cycle hire	7	Bike Maintenance Station		
4 Westminster Car Club)			
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Where do you park? (see black squares	in map above)	tkins Plaza 2)	

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d (32 Lincoln's Inn Fields)			I (Clements In			
e (SAW)		(m (Grange Co	urt)		
f (Parish Hall / Peacock Theatre)	(n (Towers Bas	ement)		
g (George IV)		(n/a (TFL cycle	hire)		
h (John Watkins Plaza 1)		(Other (please	specify)		
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Don't know how to cycle			☐ Inconvenient				
Don't own / have access to a b		☐ Too polluted					
Disability		Opening and c	losing times of secu	ure bike storage			
Lack of parking space		Lockers at LSE	are not suitable				
Lack of safe parking			Lack of changing	ng facilities at LSE			
The weather			Low lighting le	vels around LSE cy	cle parking facilit	ies	
The roads are not safe			Other (please s	specify)		_	
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Training on cycling safety	important	O		O O		0	
Improved road safety		0	0	0		0	
More secure bike parking	0		0	0			
Secure parking space with extended opening times (adapted to the library)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
More changing and shower facilities	0			0	0	0	
Better access to TFL London cycle hire	0	0	0	•	0	0	
Other (please specify)							