



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Travel surveys at The University of Edinburgh

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Some history and context...

- 16,000 staff and 49,065 students (on campus peak: 39,365 students), spread across 600+ buildings on 5 main sites.
- Travel responsibility is split:
 - Estates focus on commuting travel infrastructure and policies
 - Social Responsibility and Sustainability focus on business travel
- Commuter travel surveys have been undertaken every two years since 2000



2022 Survey

- 8,459 responses
 - 20.4% of staff
 - 11.8% of students
- Ran from 29th March – 27th April
- Only incentive for participation was a small prize-draw



How we do it

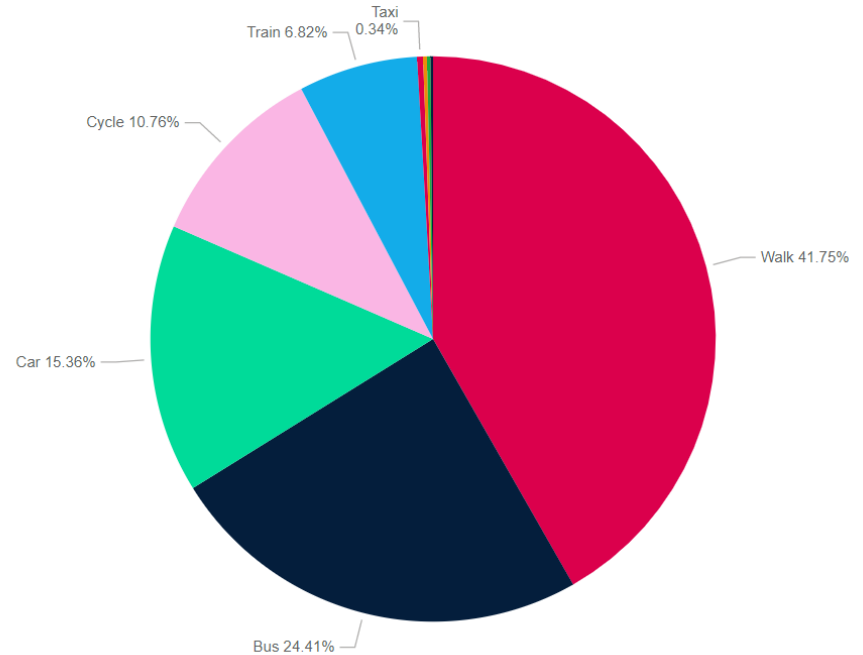
- Almost 90 questions in total (but no-one sees every question)
- Conducted using JISC online surveys
- We go through each mode of transport, and ask if they use it – if so, then that triggers more questions
- Survey construction, initial analysis, and final report is undertaken by consultants (Stantec)
- Further analysis done on an ad-hoc basis by us when we need to (more on this later)



2022 Headline Results: mode share

Mode share is weighted by location (staff) and College (students) to ensure it is representative of the University overall.

It also takes into account multi-modal journeys, by splitting an individual's contribution across multiple modes, depending on how far they travel by each mode.





Student travel: long-term trends

Since 2004:

Active Travel **-11.7** percentage points
(%p.)

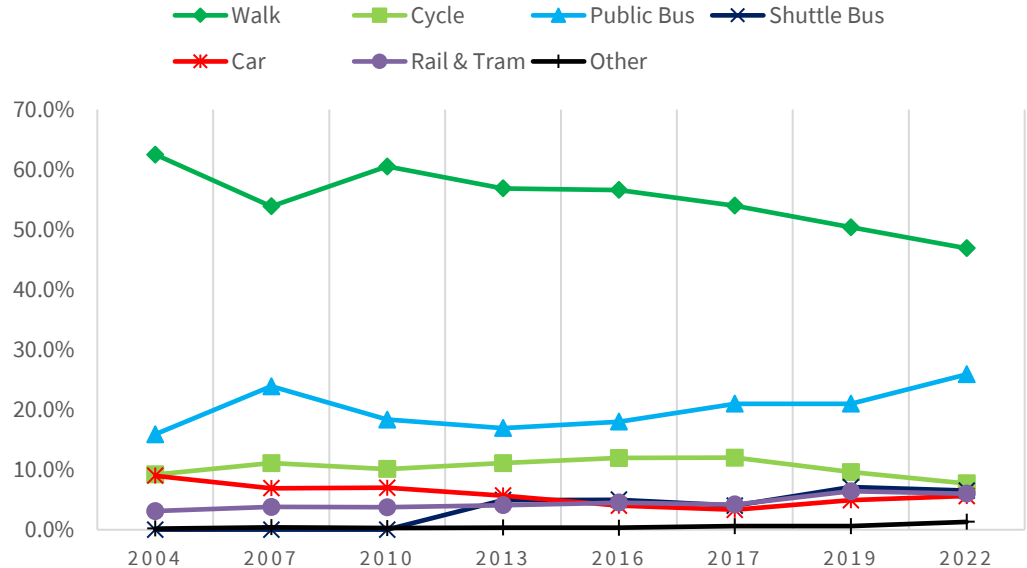
Public Transport **+8.4%p.**

Private motor vehicles **-3.7%**

This is despite big increases in active-travel infrastructure and initiatives!

Hypothesis: drop in active travel rates is due to growing student numbers, meaning students are having to live further away. This is compounded by growth being driven by international students, who are less likely to cycle for various reasons.

STUDENT MODE SHARE 2004 - 2022





Staff travel: long-term trends

Since 2004:

Active Travel **+15.7%p.**

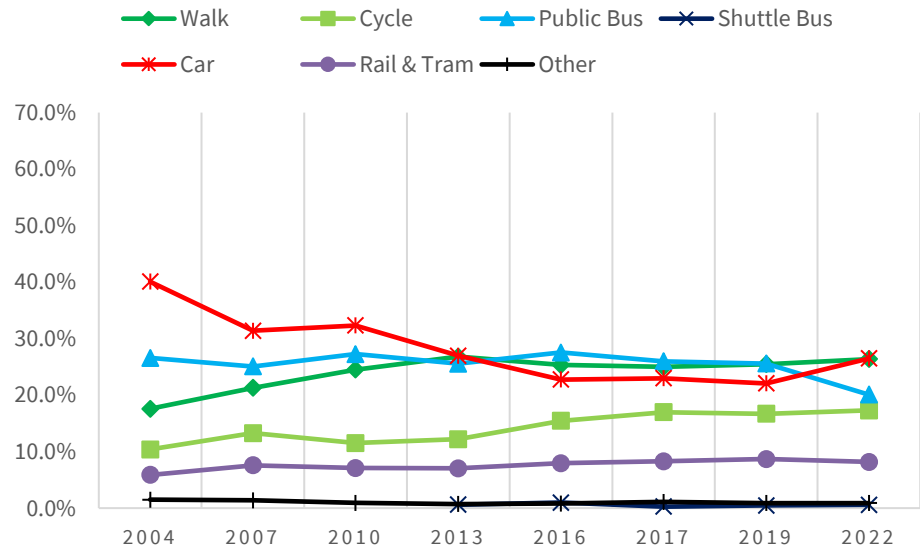
Public Transport **-4.2%p.**

Private motor vehicles **-14.2%**

Here we can see investment in cycling programmes and parking management *are* paying off.

Most noticeable change since 2019:
increases in driving and decrease in public transport (this reflects nationwide trends)

STAFF MODE SHARE 2004-2022





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Back to the 2022 results...



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Questions?

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