

# 'Students will be stranded' Anger at end to Stanley bus routes

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**B**US passengers have attacked the government for deciding to axe routes to the Stanley Fort area from 1 July, saying they will be stuck for transport.

The Transport Department has decided to re-route Citybus route 6A and China Motor Bus route 14, which stop along Wong Ma Kok Road near the former British Garrison's Stanley Fort, because the People's Liberation Army (PLA) says its troops will not need the service.

The move has angered members of the public who say it will paralyse the government-aided St Stephen's College Preparatory School, whose 400 staff and students use the buses.

"It is not a good arrangement to stop the two buses going along to our school," college principal Agnes Wai Yin-wah said.

"Even if the mini-bus service is strengthened, if it has any problem, we will be trapped in, or prevented from going to the school."

The Transport Department said mini-bus services from Central to Wong Ma Kok Road would be increased.

A school teacher who refused to be named said students, who usually carried heavy bags, would suffer if they had to walk to school, especially during bad weather.

"It will be very bad when the road is muddy," she said.

Another teacher said primary school children who had to walk would be at risk.

"I believe that walking on the pavement is very dangerous because cars and trucks are often travelling at high speeds," the teacher said.

Teacher Gordon Wong said the school was only notified about the plan on Tuesday.

"We did not even have a chance to voice our opinion regarding the issue," he said.

Secondary Six student Hau Yin-ping, of Shau Kei Wan, said the number 14 bus was the only way to get to school.

A Security Branch spokesman said the PLA had indicated they had no use for the buses, but did not object to them using Wong Ma Kok Road.

A Transport Department spokesman said: "After the retreat of the British Garrison and their relatives in Stanley, the two buses each only carry 150 people per day."

"It happens many times that the buses do not even carry passengers."

"If the demand on the buses is less and the PLA does not need the public transport, how can we maintain the bus routes?"

Citybus did not return phone calls yesterday.

