

Transport

27 May 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [1] 2021/2210 Tony Devenish AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I know how inconvenient it has been - that is me being polite - to your constituents and many on both sides of the River. Also, thanks for the way you raised the issue. It is really important for us, for the councils and for the Government to work together because, in the meantime, local businesses and local residents are suffering hugely. I can give that commitment not just for the Deputy Mayor, but for myself to redouble our efforts to get this bridge at the very least reopened for pedestrians and cyclists and then eventually for vehicles as well.

TfL's Extraordinary Funding and Financing Agreement Question Number: 2021/1541 Elly Baker AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): On 18 May [2021], as I said, it was agreed to extend TfL's previous funding agreement to tomorrow, 28 May, to allow for discussions to conclude. These discussions are still underway. I am not able to provide a running commentary at this moment as I do not want to prejudice any outcomes, but I will ensure that Members are briefed and Londoners are informed about the details of any agreement at the earliest possible opportunity.

London Cancer Hub, Sutton

Question Number: 2021/2017

Neil Garratt AM

Neil Garratt AM: My question really is about the one fly in the ointment of that site, which is its poor transport links. What I would ask is whether you would commit to meeting with me, TfL and other stakeholders onsite to see the potential that is there, to understand the transport constraints that are potentially holding it back and to come up with a plan that can really make that site thrive.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, there is not anything that the Assembly Member has said that I probably disagree with. On many occasions I have met not just those on the Cancer Hub site, but also those from the council who are really keen to improve transport links. There is the short, medium and long term. There is the issue of Sutton Station and Belmont Station, which has only two trains an hour, if I am right, and the bus issues. In the short term, we are consulting on the number 80 and S1 bus routes. If the Government wants to give us devolution of commuter trains, we could have a 'metro-ised' system of southern services. We could do a better job with TfL than Southern.

In short, I am more than happy to meet with you and others in the area, but I do not want to give a false expectation. We have put aside a significant amount of money to have a new tram, as indeed has the Council, but there is a shortfall. We have not yet negotiated a deal with the Government around TfL's current finances and so I do not want to give false hope, but it is really important for us to work together because all of us agree that that Cancer Hub is world leading. We want to remove any obstacles to it fulfilling its potential.

24 June 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

ULEZ

2021/2411

Peter Fortune AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In relation to the Central London scheme, for which we have figures that are accurate, the number of compliant vehicles is now 87%. In relation to the wider scheme, the expanded scheme, six out of ten Londoners in the expanded area do not own a car. In some boroughs like Hackney it is even more than six out of ten. The figures we have in relation to vehicles that are non-compliant for the expanded scheme - I can write to you with exact details - the number may be a bit dated because over the last period there have been more people converting to compliant vehicles, but I am happy to write to you. We do have the figure in TfL and I will drop you a note.

Peter Fortune AM: That will be fantastic, thank you, Mr Mayor. An approximate number would be great.

ULEZ

2021/2411

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: Absolutely, we understand that. It is not that we are talking about. We are talking about the charge for the poorest people in London. It seems that they have two options: their option is to pay the daily charge or to pay a sort of Arthur Daley [fictional character of television series] charge, where they go and buy a new car. We do not think this is a great thing for Londoners to do, to suggest that they go down to some sort of second-hand car showroom. Would you please look again at our proposals to help those Londoners because they really do need that support?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am always happy to look at good suggestions and I am more than happy to look at any recommendations you have to try to address the issue of poor quality air in London at the same time as helping the poorest Londoners.

Purley Way Master Plan

2021/2369

Neil Garratt AM

Neil Garratt AM: Thank you. As you say, it has 7,500 new homes. It has cross-party support. I believe even the Liberal Democrats support those particular new houses. It would mean 15,000 extra people living in that area and currently it is basically a car corridor of large box retailers and big carparks. The concern I have is that you have read some blurb from the masterplan about the aspirations. What I do not see is something tangible.

Can we have a commitment from you that it will not just be lots of people driving around there, as it is currently? If you have 15,000 extra people, we need some plan for how they are going to get around that maybe involves the tram, which is in the area, a modern railway station or more buses. You spoke about the plans over the summer. When will we see something tangible in terms of projects that might receive some funding?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I thank the Member for the points he has raised and the way he has raised them? I am more than happy to ask the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] to meet with you as summer begins.

Just to lay out the workstream with us and the Council, TfL is spending a lot of the summer working with the Council. I love the way you described it. We do not want 'blurb'. We want tangible change for the better for that community. By the way, the air quality improvements are potentially huge if we can resolve the Purley Way corridor, which, as you said, is like a car corridor that causes problems and stuff.

Chair, with your permission, Heidi [Alexander, Deputy Mayor for Transport] and Neil could sit down and work together to see what we can do to get the Council, residents, businesses and TfL in the same space. In relation to the tram, TfL is concerned about whether the new tram proposed, rather than the improvements, is the right solution, but that is one of the things we can discuss with the Member.

Neil Garratt AM: That sounds very positive. Thank you very much. I look forward to that.

15 July 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Green Person Authority Pedestrian Crossings Trial
2021/2884 **Neil Garratt AM**

Neil Garratt AM: Could you send that feedback to me? I am sure other Members would like it as well, but certainly at the very least I would like to see that feedback.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The analysis, you mean?

Neil Garratt AM: The analysis, yes.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, of course, Chair, we can circulate that through normal channels.

09 September 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Congestion Charge Consultation (supplementary) [1]
2021/3702 **Tony Devenish AM**

Tony Devenish AM: Mr Mayor, can I make a very short point on this because of time? This is just to do with a lapsed user, the closure of the residents' discount for lapsed users. I wanted to read the words of a resident, one of the many residents who has written to me about this, Mrs Lesley Gilts, and she said to me:

"I had my Congestion Charge payment on autopay. I walk to work and don't drive much at the best of times, let alone during lockdown, and therefore I was not accessing my online account. As soon as I discovered that my discount had not been renewed, I have been trying to rectify it. I wrote to TfL and received a letter back denying my request."

Do you accept that people like Mrs Gilts have really had difficulty and hardship because of this, and will you commit - forget the argument you just had with Assembly Member Prince - as soon as possible to allow those who have always lived within the zone and simply missed the paperwork electronically to receive again their discount, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Member can email my office and we will look into the casework.

14 October 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

ULEZ Expansion (Supplementary) [1]

2021/4216

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor. I want to talk to you, if I can please, about the car and motorcycle scrappage scheme, which for anybody that is not aware is for the poor and the disabled in London. How much funding is still available in that scheme please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is money available. I do not have the figure to hand. I can drop you an email later on today, but there is money still available in those schemes.

Private E-Scooters on the Transport Network

2021/3988

Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much for your answer. My questions today relate solely to privately-owned e-scooters, not the trial. While I welcome the enforcement activity you have described from the MPS, particularly in June, and also the publicity TfL has on its network against the illegal riding of e-scooters at stations, I am not sure what level of enforcement there really has been since June by the MPS and other police. Will you commit to a robust enforcement programme over the coming months along with TfL action at stations?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will. Those are the figures that have been checked, but I have some raw figures for other months. I am more than happy to provide the Member with those. The MPS get this, the issue obviously is one of priorities, but you are pushing at an open door and I am more than happy to give more updated figures, the raw ones, and once they have been screened, the final ones as well.

18 November 2021 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report

2021/4741

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Thank you. Finally, last week at our Plenary, Assembly Members cross-party agreed to ask you to set out a clear timetable on when the three remaining lines will reopen. Two out of five lines is not enough, and we do not want to leave Londoners in the dark anymore about when those other lines will return. Are you able to set out that timetable?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am sure we can, Chair. There is no secret to this. What it is, it is the speed at which we can train new drivers, operators, to get through the system. Just to remind colleagues - I know you are on top of this, but other colleagues - the issue is those train operators who left or have gone to other parts of TfL and trying to backfill in relation to new people being train operators. We could not train them during the pandemic because of the social proximity rules. We now can. Therefore it is all systems go. As soon as we can, we will get them going. I have said to TfL, if we have train operators trained for line A, let us say Jubilee line, let us get that going rather than waiting for the other two lines, Northern and Piccadilly as well. I said Jubilee first, but it could be either one of the other two. Let us not wait for all three to be all systems go. If one can go, let us get that one going as well. I am more than happy, Assembly Member, to ask TfL to get in touch with the Plenary colleagues and through the Chair to let colleagues know what the line is. People knowing, businesses knowing in advance, can help them plan as well. Therefore there is no downside to transparency there.

Manifesto Commitments (Supplementary) [2]

2021/4573

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you, Chair. Mr Mayor, draw us to one of your manifesto pledges that you have delivered, the expansion of the ULEZ. Are you able to tell us how many drivers have been charged so far since the zone expanded?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We will have those figures a month after the commencement and probably around 25 November [2021] we will have a better idea of the numbers of vehicles in the ULEZ expanded zone that were either compliant or non-compliant and so forth. A month is usually the right time. Those are rough figures, but if you go back to 2019, a month afterwards we had a better handle because half-term was when the scheme began. We would hope, Chair, to make them public and we will share them with the Assembly, clearly.

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you. Would you be able to tell us how many drivers have been issued with a penalty charge notice (PCN) yet or will that be with those figures as well?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Again, it is a really good question. We will have an idea a month afterwards about PCNs, about compliance/non-compliance. We may even have - we did

last time - an idea of any impacts on air quality, but those would be raw. We may with a good wind be able to give those soon, but you need a minimum of a month's time.

Nicholas Rogers AM: That would be useful, thank you.

Manifesto Commitments (Supplementary) [2]
2021/4573 **Nicholas Rogers AM**

Nicholas Rogers AM: At the previous MQT, you confirmed there was less than £2 million left in the car and motorcycle scrappage scheme. Are you able to update us on how much is left now?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, there is a figure, I am afraid I have not got it down, but I can do an email. Basically, there are those in the waiting list. The way it works with the scrappage scheme is you apply for the scrappage scheme, you then have 30 days to provide evidence that your car has been scrapped with the relevant company that scraps them and you are then given the amount, depending what vehicle it is. Sometimes, those figures can change and if somebody does not put in their evidence, that money is available for somebody else. We can give you an idea, but it will not be specific because there may be some changes. Chair, I can email the Member and give him an idea what the figure is.

Nicholas Rogers AM: That would be helpful, thank you very much.

Manifesto Commitments (Supplementary) [5]
2021/4573 **Keith Prince AM**

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Earlier you quite rightly mentioned your work on cleaning up the air in London, and also you mentioned taxis specifically as part of that work that you are doing in having cleaner taxis and so on and so forth, but in the 102 pages of your manifesto you actually only mention black cabs once. I was just wondering whether that was intentional.

Also, you claimed, if you would agree with me, that you know how difficult the last 12 months have been for the black cabs sector and so could I ask you: you may or may not know that you did bring in a rule where the Euro 5 diesel taxis now have a life of only 12 years rather than 15. You may well also know that there has been a lot of work to upgrade those Euro 5s to Euro 6. Do you know what progress is being made on that, Mr Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Do you mean retrofitting?

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Yes.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can write to the Member. I do not have to hand the deals of retrofitting and all that.

Manifesto Commitments (Supplementary) [5]
2021/4573 **Keith Prince AM**

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, for clarity, is the question: can the Commissioner give an update to the Member in relation to the progress of retrofitting?

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): It is more than that, Mr Mayor. Would you use your not-insignificant influence on TfL so that it hurries up and gets the testing done so that these cabs can be converted?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure. I have to be honest. TfL's focus in the next few weeks is trying to get a deal over the line.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): I understand that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to ask the Commissioner to look into what the Member has raised --

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Would you like me to write to you as well, Mr Mayor, so that you understand?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, if you would not mind because I am not quite sure if I understand. Would you mind?

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Yes, I know it is a bit complicated.

Manifesto Commitments (Supplementary) [4]
2021/4573 **Tony Devenish AM**

Tony Devenish AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor. In your manifesto - I will say that twice for Assembly Member Cooper's benefit - in your manifesto, with regard to Hammersmith Bridge, you said you will continue to work with local authorities to deliver the ferry. There is no ferry. The ferry has been put on hold, understandably.

Could you please update me in reference to where we are going with Hammersmith Bridge, please? I am sure everybody would have seen in *The Economist* article of last week that London's bridges are falling down. We do not need this bad publicity. Thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am surprised the Member is not aware who owns the bridge and the progress taking place with the Government's taskforce. If he needs a briefing, I can ask the relevant Government Minister to give him a briefing.

The position is that the Government has a taskforce and a number of people on the taskforce including Government representatives, the Government's junior Transport Minister, the Deputy Mayor for Transport, representatives of Hammersmith and Fulham Council and others as well. They are working incredibly hard to find a solution to the challenges. Thanks to the good work of the local Council and its engineers, the bridge has been reopened to pedestrians and cyclists. Further work is being undertaken around the feasibility of some of the options presented by the engineer. As soon as there is a viable option, I am sure all the parties, not just the parties on the taskforce but the residents and the businesses, will be welcoming the go ahead. It cannot happen until the taskforce chaired by the Government Minister has signed off on this.

I am surprised he was not aware of that, but I can ask them to drop him a note as the relevant [Assembly] Member so that he is briefed and up to date on that.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Private E-Scooters on the Transport Network

2021/3988

Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Also, real enforcement. Across London every day we are seeing, for example, delivery companies illegally using e-scooters, despite claiming to have a zero-tolerance policy. I have seen Deliveroo riders illegally riding e-scooters on pavements, nearly knocking over pedestrians just down the road near London Bridge. Will you write to these on-demand delivery companies asking them to enforce the law and to keep our pavements safe for pedestrians?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for bringing that to my attention. I do not want to name the company that you have named. We are writing again. We do, before Christmas, write to retailers and others to remind them in relation to the law around e-scooters. I do not think we have written to delivery companies up until now. Can I take that away as ever a useful suggestion? Any other incidents of companies - because they are illegal - using illegal scooters, please let us know. Not only will we write to them, but we are also going to follow up with the MPS, because they are illegal.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you. You have touched on writing to retailers. The sale of e-scooters is critical and particularly in the run-up to Christmas, assuming the stock comes in. In the past *LBC* and *The Times* have undertaken these mystery shopping exercises; they have highlighted how retailers are not giving accurate information to customers. Halfords is a great example where they are putting the absolute information there for customers to know. Will you agree to write, not just to the usual retailers, but to look into those private shops that are popping up to ensure they provide the accurate information that the riding of private e-scooters is illegal on pavements and public roads in the capital?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, that is what we have been doing. I am really pleased it has been recognised by the Assembly. Also, I am really pleased you have mentioned a really good retailer, Halfords, doing a good job. That buyer-beware maxim does not really apply because often many buyers do not realise that the e-scooter is illegal, save for a private road. Many of those who buy the illegal e-scooters do not have access to a private road and buy them not realising that, particularly at this time of year with Christmas approaching. We had planned to do another Christmas initiative for the reasons you suggest; those are being worked on now. I will make sure the Walking and Cycling Commissioner, who is responsible for this, hears what has been said in relation to the smaller retailers as well.

Getting London Moving 2021/3890

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): One of the other things, Mr Mayor, very quickly is that in order to keep London moving, we have to ensure that the bus routes are serving the right areas. I know you do agree with that, but you may or may not be aware of an anomaly in my patch around the 499 bus. I did give your office a heads-up about this particular issue. It runs from east to west down a road called Crow Lane, which connects Romford to Barking and Dagenham, but it cannot run west to east because there is no right turn from Whalebone Lane into Crow Lane. That is part of Barking and Dagenham, which is not in my constituency.

I know that TfL is trying to help but would you also put your weight behind trying to provide a constant service along Crow Lane for the residents?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure if the Assembly knows this because I do not talk about it much, but buses are quite personal to me.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): You would not be the son of a bus driver by any chance, would you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank the Member for his courtesy. He let my office know about this issue. I know he has met with TfL to discuss this. There are issues with borough roads. He raises some really sound points.

Can I suggest that we arrange for TfL to meet with the respective boroughs of Havering and Barking and Dagenham? The issue is to do with, as I understand it, a two-way issue along Crow Lane. Chair, why do we not let TfL, the councils and Assembly Member Prince meet? If there is a need for me to directly get involved, I am more than happy to do so, but I am hoping wise heads around the table can resolve this.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): I have had a meeting with them, Mr Mayor, and I would just like you to put your weight behind it.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. It is really good to see, by the way, an Assembly Member being a champion for bus services, particularly in outer London where there is a particular need for bus services. Let me follow this up after the meeting you have.

**Scrappage Schemes
2021/4254**

Krupesh Hirani AM

Krupesh Hirani AM: Will you also commit to working with other mayors and local authorities across the country so that we have a more national, coordinated approach to scrappage?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. In fact, tomorrow I have the pleasure of going to see Andy Street, who is the Mayor of West Midlands, and I will be in Coventry tomorrow. I work very closely with all ten mayors in England, and we are called M10, which is not a motorway. It is the ten of us, cross-party, who work really closely and collegiately together on a cross-party basis and this is one example of us doing so.

Krupesh Hirani AM: Thank you.

16 December 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Winter Pressures (Supplementary) [2]

2021/5047

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Mr Mayor, one of the biggest winter challenges Londoners will face over the next three months is the uncertainty around the full reopening of the Night Tube, which is something we have agreed on, and the need to address this quickly. Would you be able to tell me how many staff have been recruited and trained so far in the bid to reopen the Northern, Jubilee and Piccadilly lines?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have not got those numbers to hand, but I am more than happy to get TfL to write to the Member to give her that information. I should say there will be some delay now, caused by a combination of Omicron and the restrictions that flow from that. The way operators are trained is in a cabin and clearly impossible for them to do so, as had been planned, because of the Omicron variant and additional staff sicknesses. I am sure TfL can send the Member the information that she seeks.

Winter Pressures (Supplementary) [2]

2021/5047

Emma Best AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): TfL has said it will be publishing the timetable in due course and I will ask them to let the Member know when that will be. My understanding is the timetable for resumption of the remaining lines will hopefully be available in the New Year, but what I will do is ask them to let the Member know when it will so she can make plans accordingly.

Emma Best AM: Thank you. From what you have said, you may not have this information again, but I would appreciate the confirmation that you will send this to me. Obviously, I understand that training was suspended because, like you said, the two people in one cabin. Could you send me details of when that restriction was lifted - so when training was able to recommence - and perhaps, as you have just said, it has been put on hold again. Could you also send me that information, or get TfL to send me that information?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am more than happy to. Those are very reasonable questions.

Boundary Charge
2021/4926

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: The feasibility study has been worked on for a while. You wrote to me back in June [2021] to say it was nearly ready. You said it would be ready by the end of the year, so we are getting a bit tight for time on that. When do you estimate we will be able to have a look at what that feasibility study has thrown up?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am told in the new year. You will appreciate TfL have had so much bandwidth in relation to the work they have been doing and stuff, but I have not seen it yet. Put it that way.

Peter Fortune AM: That feasibility study on whether or not that this would be something that could be used to negotiate, you have not seen it and the Commissioner [of TfL] has not seen it, either. Is that right?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, he would have shared it with me.

Peter Fortune AM: OK. Everybody is looking for the best deal that TfL can get and for all Londoners, but I just want to stress again - and it is my responsibility as the Member for Bexley and Bromley - that this would be really impactful on businesses, on families and on charities. If we could see that report as soon as possible, it is a matter of genuine concern to lots of people in southeast London, and I know elsewhere.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I fully understand the points raised in a straight manner by the Member. I take those on board, and I promise to keep him updated once I know the position, but I understand the concerns he said.

Dial-a-Ride
2021/4891

Peter Fortune AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The second point you raised is that people cannot book a service on Dial-a-Ride after 9pm. That is not true, but if it is the case that your constituent received that information, I am more than happy to look into it. If that is the advice he was given, it was wrong because it is possible to book trips up until 10pm.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): All right. That is what I would ask you. Would you ensure, Mr Mayor, that 10pm means 10pm?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

TfL Income Streams
2021/4742

Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Finally, the expansion of the ULEZ appears to have been a great success, but I wonder whether you might consider taking it further. Such an expansion could be a really good opportunity to both generate revenue and tackle emissions. What consideration have you given to further expanding the ULEZ to cover the whole of London, and could you send me any work that has been done on this to date?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You will be aware that we brought forward the ULEZ expansion in October [2021]. The Government was against that, and now the Government is saying that could be one of the methods used to raise additional revenues. Because Londoners have done the right thing and 92% are compliant within the ULEZ and 82% are compliant outside the ULEZ, the Government is complaining it is not bringing in the revenues it was hoping it would bring in. We are damned if we do and damned if we don't.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is delivering what it should. I know.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy, Assembly Member Pidgeon, for TfL to share with you any work it has done, subject to privacy issues and stuff, because it is important for you to be aware.

TfL Income Streams (Supplementary) [1]
2021/4742

Neil Garratt AM

Neil Garratt AM: I do not think it was anyone's intention to put a charity like this and the work that they do at risk when the ULEZ was expanded and so I wonder, Mr Mayor, whether you would agree for the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] to meet with Dogs on the Streets and try to explore the work that they are doing and how that can be supported to continue? This is not a desired ramification of the ULEZ expansion.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, Chair, I am really happy for TfL and the Deputy Mayor to meet with the charity to discuss a resolution to the consequences of the ULEZ on the brilliant work the charity does.

BikeSafe
2021/4890

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Thank you, Mr Mayor. It is a good scheme. Do you think you could do more, though, to promote this more widely? There are a lot of especially provisional motorcyclists - or [riders of] powered two-wheelers - who are not aware of these courses. It will be very helpful if you could promote them more widely, and also if perhaps the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] could engage with some of the larger delivery companies to make them aware, so that their delivery staff could engage in and benefit from these courses.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to take offline any ideas the Member has. He is a keen motorcyclist, and he knows, when you see 2% of users being 25% of those killed or seriously injured, there must be more we can do. I am more than happy to listen to any ideas you have because we have to be doing much more. This course is available. There is a waiting list but let us get more people being aware of this and doing it.

BikeSafe
2021/4890

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Finally, would you redouble your efforts, please, to try to persuade boroughs to let motorcyclists use the bus lanes they run?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am afraid the season of goodwill may have just ended at that moment because you will be aware of the concerns around not just congestion, but also emissions caused by motorcycles. We can, again, talk about this offline.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Sorry, Mr Mayor, you cannot accuse motorcyclists of causing congestion.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to explain to you the braking distance rules that apply to motorcycles and the distance between vehicle A and vehicle B compared and contrasted with, for example, walking and cycling.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): I would love to have that conversation with you, Mr Mayor.

20 January 2022- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

533 Bus Route
2022/0186

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: No, I absolutely understand that, but at the heart of this issue really is engagement. It is about engagement with the community. On Monday at his confirmation hearing your new Deputy Mayor for Transport told me that he thinks it is essential to engage with local residents, and I absolutely agree with him. So many local residents in Chiswick appreciated those stops on the 533. I am sure you will be aware there is quite a sensitive discussion at the moment in that part of London about transport, public transport and getting people out of their cars, which is something we want to encourage. They very much would like those stops reinstated and they feel that TfL made a mistake in withdrawing them. My request to you would be, perhaps through Seb Dance [Deputy Mayor for Transport], whether you or Seb could meet with some of those residents so they can outline their position and perhaps ask if TfL could reconsider.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me be frank. I am well aware that you know that patch far better than I do but also that the briefing I have is written by people who may not know it as well as you do either. Although my briefing says there are very good reasons why the 533 cannot stop at all stops on the route, I respect your knowledge of the area. Can I instruct my Deputy Mayor [for Transport] to meet with you to see if there is a way through this in relation to meeting the wishes of your constituents? Also, you make a powerful point. I cannot on the one hand encourage them to leave their cars at home and on the other hand, where there is a bus and there is a potential way of helping your constituents to not drive their cars, not do what I can to help. Ignoring my civil servants' advice, can I suggest, Chair, that the Deputy Mayor of Transport meets with Nicholas and sees whether there is a solution to try to address the very good points you are raising to me that I am just not on top of like you are?

Review of advertising on Transport for London services (2)
2022/0004

Siân Berry AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are adapting our policies to make sure they meet the needs of the market and our third-party partners, while also being a responsible place where adverts are placed.

The responsibility on TfL is twin-fold. First, we have to make sure we maximise revenues for the reasons I have rehearsed in relation to the financial challenges caused by the pandemic, but also, we have a responsibility --

Siân Berry AM: Yes. If I can clarify that, I am talking about a change in approach from essentially what we have now, which is a banned list, to a green list, a list that then people need to apply to join. That is a change in approach completely. I did not expect you not to have any issues with this, and I have asked for a further discussion. Would you be prepared to help organise that, maybe with you or with the people at TfL who might have practical questions?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I find it is of huge benefit to both me and Londoners to regularly meet with Siân, and so I am more than happy to organise for such a meeting.

Siân Berry AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Bond Street Station Crossrail Works
2022/0102 **Emma Best AM**

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Bond Street has met its requirement to support Trial Operations. This means that the station is ready for full-scale passenger evacuation and emergency intervention. This is the minimum requirement needed for the railway to enter into passenger service and is key to ensuring the Elizabeth line opens safely. Bond Street remains at a less advanced stage than the other Elizabeth line central London stations, but good progress continues to now be made.

Andrew Boff AM (Chair): May I interrupt you there? Apologies, but the Conservative Group is now out of time, so we have to move on to the next question.

[...]

Can I suggest that you write to the Member with a date? Thank you.

24 March 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Impact of ULEZ expansion and road charging [1]

2022/1276

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. I phrased the question very carefully and so, for the benefit of the tape, I recognise that there are the air quality improvements that you are driving for, but the question was specifically about the financial impact. I did word that in the question.

Just so you know, I spoke with TfL on Monday, and they are going to come back with some modelling about the air quality in outer London. I want to do my homework and I want to understand it.

It is the financial impact that I want to focus on, and the question asks: how will you ensure that the financial impact of these schemes does not hit the poorest the hardest?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There will be an Integrated Impact Assessment which will look into the sorts of issues we are talking about, the equality and economic impacts, and I can ask TfL to also brief you on that as well.

Impact of ULEZ expansion and road charging [2]

2022/1276

Peter Fortune AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I just be clear? You are implying the poorest do own cars?

Peter Fortune AM: No, I will ask again, just for your clarity. You have said many times that the poorest in London do not have cars, the implication being that when there is an expanded ULEZ zone they will not be impacted by it in terms of the financial impact. I am asking. I have gone to look for that data and I am struggling to find that data. Where do you get that data from?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): OK. I am surprised by that supposition. I will make sure that officers in TfL give him the data.

19 May 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Vision Zero
2022/1652

Neil Garratt AM

Neil Garratt AM: OK, but the 2020 figures are during the pandemic. When you publish figures for Vision Zero, will we be seeing then a comparison with, say, a baseline of 2015-2017, which was just before it started?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Right. There is a separate point, which I am willing to take on board, that we should be challenging and that we should not try to just satisfy an arbitrary target by using figures so we can always tick, tick, tick. I am happy to go away, Chair, to have stretching targets. That is a good challenge.

Motorcycle safety
2022/1610

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: It is not a trick question, but are you aware of the organisation called New Rider Hub? Are you aware of that, Mr Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not think so, no.

Keith Prince AM: It is an organisation that offers free online training and advice to new motorcyclists and scooter users. Firstly, I wonder if you would be able to help raise awareness of this organisation because of the good work it does. Also, they have this new [National] Young Rider Forum and there are a number of organisations that belong to it, but unfortunately neither the GLA nor TfL have representation on the group. Is it possible that you could look into that and, hopefully, get some representation on that forum, too, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, my experience is the Member normally has good suggestions. I am more than happy to take this up and ask the Deputy Mayor for Transport to look into this.

Keith Prince AM: We will write to the Deputy Mayor.

23 June 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Buses in London (Supplementary) [1]

2022/1894

Caroline Pidgeon AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If we do not get a long-term deal, it is not simply the 2%-plus cuts you are talking about. We are talking about 18% cuts on buses. Put aside the Tube cuts as well. Londoners can expect to see more cuts in our buses unless there is a long-term capital deal from the Government. Also, we need the revenue support for 2022/23. If you remember, we have agreed to go to financial sustainability from 2023 onwards but we still need to support revenue in 2022/23.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Do you acknowledge that the current consultation is actually 1.6% bus cuts rather than 4%?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No. The current consultation is the 4% --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Seriously, I have had a letter from Geoff Hobbs, Director of Public Transport Service Planning [TfL], yesterday that confirms that the cuts that are proposed are for 1.6%, not 4%.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It depends how you measure it, whether it is kilometres travelled or whether it buses and so forth. I am really happy to do you a note in relation to --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Perhaps you can clarify that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

Buses in London (Supplementary) [2]

2022/1894

Nick Rogers AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): 9,000 people have responded to the consultation so far. I do not know if you have updated figures, but that is a very small proportion of the people who will be affected by this.

Nick Rogers AM: Do you think that the 19 days left in the consultation is really long enough to make sure that we hear from everyone, and would you consider extending the consultation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The original consultation was planned to be four weeks, which is the normal time TfL does consultations, but I asked to extend it to six weeks. You mention the number of people who have responded and so, on the one hand, you are commending them for responding, which is more than normally happens, and then you are asking for more time. I am more than happy to go away and look at it. I always take on board views from Members of the Assembly. Let me take that away in relation to what more can be done.

The only thing I would say is that the requirement from the Government is for us to start making savings now. The further we extend out the consultation means the further away before any changes take place, which means they have to be more severe to meet the Government's requirements for the cuts to be made. There is a downside to extending the consultation. However, let me take that away and see what we can do.

Nick Rogers AM: Thank you.

21 July 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

ULEZ Expansion 2022/2743

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: Yes, 29 July [2022] it closes. One of the things that I would be interested in looking at is how we audit those responses as well and wherever those responses come from. Can we break out where they have come from across the country?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This is not TfL's first rodeo in relation to consultations. There is a lot of technical expertise involved. I am not going to pretend I am on top of it. I am more than happy for TfL to meet with the Member and again, I suggest, with Deputy Mayor [for Transport] Seb Dance and anybody who is interested to talk through how they have done things in the past. I suspect they will be more than happy to meet with you and to address and alleviate any concerns you might have.

Shifting road space away from traffic 2022/2609

Siân Berry AM

Siân Berry AM: My question today is: to reach your target to reduce traffic, why are you not shifting more space away from motor traffic, specifically on your red routes, in a more rapid and concerted way?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You will remember the work we had done in relation to cycle lanes on our red routes, and the opposition, and notwithstanding that we have carried on and made sure there are not just wider pavements but more cycling as well. If there are any particular red routes you want us to look into, I am more than happy for the Walking and Cycling Commissioner or the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] to speak to you.

13 October 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

TfL advertising guidance failures (Commitment 1)

2022/3437

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: The next question I wanted to ask you is: you made the statement that there would be 11 countries, I think, that would be banned from advertising due to their attitude to human rights, for example, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. What provision of the TfL advertising guidelines are you using to ban those adverts?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In relation to countries that are banned from the estate? You mean countries that are banned from advertising?

Emma Best AM: Yes. In the TfL advertising guidelines, what provision are you using to ban those countries from advertising?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): TfL has an Advertising Policy which has additional restrictions. I do not have the clause that I use. I am happy to write to the Member about the clause used. I am also not aware of the list of countries. I can drop a note to the Member.

Emma Best AM: OK.

TfL advertising guidance failures (Commitment 2)

2022/3437

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Now, you will remember it was in 2019 you made the announcement that you were going to take those ads off the network, and it appears that has happened. However, recently there was an ad across the bus network for Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) [World Cup] Qatar, which I am sure has been raised with you, and TfL's explanation for why that was allowed was because it was from FIFA and not from Qatar.

There is no actual, direct reference to countries. The only provisions that you could use are (a), (h), or (q), under section 2. They would be the same if it was a country as if it were FIFA presenting Qatar. What we have allowed now on our network is sportwashing through Qatar, and I do not think that is what your intention was.

If you look at those clauses, they could be tightened up. There is a specific clause, for example, on gentlemen's clubs and lap dances. That really important statement you made around countries that could not be allowed to advertise on the bus network does not exist within the Advertising Policy. That FIFA advert could have been stopped in the exact same way that adverts for any of those other countries violating human rights are stopped.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, the Member makes a really powerful point in a really powerful way. Can I take this away? What I do not want is loopholes that are there, that can be used by people. It is very powerful, what you say. I promise to take it away and come back to you sooner rather than later.

Emma Best AM: Thank you.

Junk Food Bans and Cost of Living

2022/3429

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair): Some while ago I published a report called *Tipping the Scales* and I sent you a copy. One of those recommendations was that some of the advertising space on the transport network should be used to encourage healthy eating. Is that something that you would take up?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can certainly look into it. Apologies. I cannot remember the details of the report. I can look into how we can use the space on the TfL advertising estate to send good public health messages. That clearly is good.

Policing

27 May 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Violence in London

Question Number: 2021/1947

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Thank you, Mr Mayor. I am very pleased that you are keen to work together. As you know, I am always happy to be collegiate. With that in mind, will you then agree, Mr Mayor, to meet with some mums of victims of these heinous crimes who have in fact lost their sons with me, so that we can learn from them to help you structure your plans?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I regularly meet with bereaved families including mums, dads, carers, siblings and so forth. I am always happy to meet more families either through you or others as well. We can arrange a time. It is very important.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): Can I also be cheeky, Mr Mayor? I know that you, like me, are passionate about trying to get people out of homelessness. You probably are aware of the Hills Foundation, which is giving away 200 free units across the South East. I have one of the units coming down to Westminster on 28 June. I am going to send you a formal invitation to come and have a look. I hope you will be able to take it up.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. It is not cheeky at all. I am more than happy to, if I can. For those who do not know, Assembly Member Prince is a good example of us putting aside differences in party political terms and working closely together on a range of issues. I am more than happy to come down.

Bexley and Bromley safety

Question Number: 2021/2059

Peter Fortune AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to have you sit down with the Basic Command Unit (BCU) team as well as the Commissioner's team to explain the things we are doing. If there are additional things we can be doing in the boroughs that have burglary as a priority, we will be happy to do that. The advantage of having burglary as a priority in those boroughs that have them is that we can then learn the lessons from those boroughs and use them elsewhere, even if burglary is not a priority. I am hoping to see a further reduction. I mentioned the numbers, which again are no consolation to you. We are going to see further reductions going forward as well.

New Police and Crime Plan

Question Number: 2021/1432

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. When will your Police and Crime Plan be published?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I hope to get to consultation in summer. Could I, Chair, with your permission, email the Member to give her more precise dates?

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you. I will look forward to seeing the draft plan. You have started with a lot of community engagement in your action plan because you know as well as anyone else that a paper or online consultation simply will not reach widely enough to all the communities in London. How will Londoners be involved in developing your new Police and Crime Plan?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am really happy to work with the relevant Committee in relation to talking through the consultation plans we have. If there are any ideas Members have, we are more than happy to take those on board. I suspect - my fingers are crossed - we will be out of the pandemic by the summer, so we will not have to worry about the health risks. Chair, can I suggest that my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime works with Members of the Assembly to make sure we have a proper consultation, which is really important for a Police and Crime Plan?

[...]

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you. The other thing that is really important is obviously the public health approach, which you have been speaking about. Now, for example, will you commit to putting VRU-trained rise-up youth officers in every borough?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure I can give that commitment now. What I am willing to do is get back to you. You are asking me to commit to something in a Police and Crime Plan that is not written yet. I am more than happy to take on board any ideas you have.

Londoners' Safety (Supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2021/2110

Susan Hall AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to look into this specific case you refer to. But the police are not taking a hands-off approach in relation to this. You will be aware of the speed at which they moved in relation to making arrests in that high-profile incident a couple of weeks ago. Sometimes, just in general terms, when there is a march or a protest, rather than having snatch squads going in to arrest people, they often record and will arrest after the protest. I am not sure if that was the case in the issue you referred to.

I have met regularly over the last two weeks with Jewish groups, including earlier this week with the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. But I am more than happy to look into this particular case. It should not be happening that Jewish Londoners are feeling unsafe even though the police are there.

Susan Hall AM: There are several instances, to be honest, and I am quite happy to forward this on to you.

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Prime Minister shares my views. The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have met with Jewish groups to make sure they feel safe, as indeed I have. Yesterday, most recently, the Deputy Mayors for Policing and Crime and Communities met again with Jewish Londoners. But we have to understand the fear they feel. Susan Hall [AM] is spot on in relation to the experience I have had speaking to Jewish Londoners about how frightened they feel. Events happening 3,000 miles away are leading to antisemitism in our city and it is not on. I am more than happy to provide the information that we have in relation to the massive increase.

Londoners' Safety (Supplementary) [2]

Question Number: 2021/2110

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: We have to bring the question of keeping Londoners safe perhaps to a more local level. Many of my constituents in Richmond are deeply worried about crime in the community at present. Tragically, as I am sure you are aware, last week there was a murder in central Richmond in broad daylight. This has compounded residents' existing concerns after some very serious antisocial behaviour incidents around Richmond Green and the riverside following the previous lockdown easing last summer.

Given these - entirely justifiable, entirely understandable - concerns, and given the previous decision to close Richmond Police Station, will you now commit to finding an alternative permanent town centre base for the local Richmond Safer Neighbourhood team?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, can I congratulate you on your election? I am sure your predecessor has lots of advice for you, built up over many decades, about doing the job that you are now doing.

As I said in answer to the question from Caroline Russell [AM], we are working on the new Police and Crime Plan. Just to give you an idea of the scale of the challenge that we faced over the last five years; we have already lost £850 million from the MPS budget over the last ten years. Therefore, the choice often boils down to police officers or buildings and paying the rent and costs of a building. We are keen to make sure we can have as many frontline officers as we can, while recognising that the police need to have a presence in their respective communities.

Sometimes these presences do not need to be a public-facing station where people can go and report crime because most Londoners now report crime other ways rather than in person. But there does need to be a physical presence in boroughs, not least because the time it takes to travel from a hub somewhere else is not time we want to be spent wasted when where we want police officers is in the community as much as possible. I am more than happy to get my team to look into the particular case you refer to. I am not on top of the detail about that particular example you referred to. With your permission, if I could get back to you about the example you gave in your community, I am more than happy to do so.

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you, I would appreciate that. Also, will you commit to meeting local councillors and residents so they can share their concerns with you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, during the course of Mayor's Question Time, I suspect my diary manager has had a heart attack in relation to the number of meetings I have committed to. If my meeting with the team you referred to cannot happen soon, I am more than happy for the Deputy Mayor to do it. I am happy to do it, but it may be a long way off if it is with me. If you want a quicker meeting I am more than happy to delegate. I am more than happy to meet with you and members of your community. Of course I am.

24 June 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

**Met Recruitment and Conduct
2021/2211**

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I understand there will always be cases of officers breaking the law or acting improperly, a very small number I am sure. But the scale and the seriousness of some of the more recent reports and cases has given me huge cause for concern. It will undoubtedly, as you mentioned earlier, be contributing to the fall we see in public confidence in the MPS. Will you work with the MPS to review the application and recruitment process and the companies that are used, to assure yourself that it is sufficiently robust?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I have checked the issue of how police officers are vetted in relation to the vetting code of practice; in relation to the approved professional practice, which is a national vetting process; in relation to the MPS having their own vetting unit and their own vetting board. There are always improvements that can be made and what I am willing to do, Chair, is to contact the Assembly Member to let her know all the steps we are taking, have taken, and will continue to take going forward.

**Delays to Court Cases
2021/2550**

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I am most concerned about vulnerable victims such as survivors of rape and domestic abuse. When I questioned the Deputy Commissioner [of the MPS] earlier this year, he said that due to the case backlog, the MPS witness and victim care unit had seen a 90% increase in workload. I know extra resources have been put in, but my concern is for, first of all, the safety of those people - primarily women - where their abusers may often be out on bail, but secondly about the attrition. Can I ask you about those two things? What does this mean for the safety, particularly of women and girls, and do you have any data on the attrition rate that is being caused by the delays?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. This is something that Claire Waxman has done as the Victims' Commissioner. We are concerned about both those things, and the concern is that things are getting worse, not better. You will have seen the apology from the Home Secretary and the Justice Secretary in relation to the appalling way victims of rape have been treated and the paucity of successful prosecutions, and I am afraid it is made worse by the pandemic. I am more than happy to write to you with the stats which demonstrate how this has been exacerbated by the pandemic, but we are taking steps to address the backlog and the MPS has secured some additional staff to go into the Witness Care Unit to address this issue.

15 July 2021 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Domestic Abuse
2021/2908

Nicholas Rogers AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would rather allow the Assembly Member a chance to ask supplementary questions and I can send my answer in writing.

[...]

If there are other ideas or initiatives the Member has which he thinks we have not thought about, I am more than happy to look into those. I am also more than happy to arrange for him to meet with the team to explain some of the work we are doing because there are some people who - forgive me for this language - fall through the cracks, and we have got to make sure there is support for them so they do not fall through the cracks.

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you. I would appreciate that meeting.

Protecting the victims of modern slavery
2021/3139

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: The Government has recently received sharp criticism from its own Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner that the proposed changes will keep more people in the hands of these traffickers and increase the number of people in modern slavery in the UK. Do you and the Victims' Commissioner share these concerns, and have you made representations to the Home Office in behalf of these victims, or if you have not, will you consider making representations to the Home Office?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am concerned, as is the Victims' Commissioner. I responded to the Government's consultation on the immigration plan to make my concerns clear. I am happy to send those to you. If there are additional points you think I should raise, I am more than happy to.

[...]

What would be more sensible is for me to speak to the relevant Police and Crime Commissioners as well, so let me take away what is the best way to coordinate our concern across different cities about the issue you raise and let me think about what is the best way to do it.

Public London Charter (Supplementary) [2]

2021/2726

Zack Polanski AM

Zack Polanski AM: I am aware that this facial recognition at the moment disproportionately affects people from ethnic minorities and particularly Black women. Will you give a guarantee that it will be banned or avoided until those measures are met and private companies can use it safely?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to write to you about this issue.

09 September 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Hate Crime on the Public Transport Network

2021/3586

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you for your answer. I am particularly pleased to hear about the bus driver training. London is known as a welcoming and diverse city. We want London to remain so, so we have got to urgently tackle the increasing levels of hate crime. In June [2021], I witnessed first-hand a man verbally abuse my friend and colleague Councillor Rabina Khan when we were travelling on the Tube together. When I initially reported this crime, I found BTP to be swift and informative, but this did not really last, and the process of getting a statement and so on was slow and not well-managed. It was clear that this was an issue of resources, nothing to do with the dedicated officers who were involved, and I worry that such experiences could put people off reporting such hate crimes. What are you doing with both BTP and the MPS to make sure they have the practical resources they need to deal effectively and swiftly with reports of hate crime, particularly given your current campaign?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am sorry to hear the experience of your friend and colleague when she did the right thing and reported a hate crime. I will make sure I pass on that experience to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) because it is a whole criminal justice system issue you are raising. It is great to hear that the BTP responded swiftly and would have taken a statement and passed it on to the CPS, who would have then made a charging decision before the court process begins and the charges are brought. I am not quite sure what the problem is in that particular case, but if somebody has taken the brave step to make a complaint and it does not lead anywhere or the response is like you suggest, are they less likely to come forward next time? They will tell their friends and family and so forth, and that ripple effect is no good for anybody. I am happy to speak to the Member and see what needs to be done. I would not want to give the impression it is due to a lack of commitment from either the police service, the CPS or others, but clearly something went wrong in that case.

Keeping Young Londoners Safe

Question Number: 2021/3750

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: In a response to a written question, you said that to get an accurate number and understand the sort of patterns of children going missing - beyond County Lines as well - you would need to do a manual search, and obviously that is very time-consuming. Would it be helpful to attach certain characteristics of children, if they are attending school, for instance, to the database so that it was actually searchable? This very large number of children will be hard to look at, as you said, using a manual search. Are we collecting the data to help us do that search so that we can interrogate it just using a computer?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am very happy for the Assembly Member in his role as Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee to work with the team to talk through all the stuff we are doing.

[...]

I am more than happy to work with the Assembly Member about what more we can do, particularly if he has any advice in relation to those in alternative provision education and those in care; in relation to, at an early stage, finding out who they are, how they are missing, and providing the assistance sooner rather than later.

Shaun Bailey AM: Is there any work being looked at, is there any link between children who go missing regularly and then end up being involved in any particular types of crime?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am trying to be careful and not speak in generalisations for obvious reasons. The short answer is yes, and I am afraid the bad news is there is a link between young people going missing, particularly of a certain age and from certain communities, and County Lines. It is the same issue, by the way, in other urban conurbations, it is not just a London issue. If you were speaking to colleagues in Liverpool, Manchester, other busy cities, Glasgow, they have similar challenges as well, I am afraid. There is a link, and I am really happy again, as part of the briefing to him as Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee for the team to talk through that with him, including what we can learn from other cities. We are always keen to learn from other cities.

Drugs (supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2021/3820

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: Good afternoon, Mr Mayor. With reference to the London drug commission, could you explain how the membership of that commission is going to be decided?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are working on that now and as soon as we have decided on the composition of the membership, I am more than happy to write to all the Assembly to give them an update.

14 October 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Reoffending 2021/3913

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor, and thank you very much for the answer. You mentioned your Newham scheme. I wondered if you could perhaps give us just a few more details about the scheme, how it is progressing, whether there have been any early results and whether there are any plans to expand that across London at all?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Newham scheme is a hub where we get young adults to have a one-stop shop in relation to help. It is a pilot scheme, and the Government provided a lot of the funding. The Government is keen to see with us if it can make a difference.

One of the things that you will be aware of from your interest in this area is the fragmentation in relation to what support you need. Often - and I am not making a generalisation for the sake of it but just to make the point - people who need help have chaotic lifestyles and it is difficult for them to get assistance. We have to make it as easy as possible. It is too early to have any results that are properly verified in relation to assessment, but we are hopeful this scheme in that part of London will make a real difference.

The key thing is that transition from adolescence to adulthood. Can we give them the right assistance then? The great phrase used is that people grow out of committing crime. If you can stop somebody being a first-time offender by 18, you have achieved the mission. If you stop that person committing their first offence by 18, they have made that transition to adulthood without reoffending. I am more than happy to give an update as soon as we have one.

Nicholas Rogers AM: I appreciate it is quite early. The scheme started in July [2021]. Do you have a timescale of when you will start to assess that scheme and assess its effectiveness?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. We will get raw data in the next few months, which I am happy to share as long as the Member appreciates it is raw data that has to be verified and checked. The Home Office, as you would appreciate when it comes to Home Office funding, has a number of KPIs and metrics with timelines. The Home Office is also keen to examine which parts of the country have schemes that work better than others so that when it comes to additional funding, it supports those schemes that are clearly working and probably does not support schemes that are not.

I am hoping Newham is one of the schemes that works. You will appreciate the challenge in London is there are so many housing providers. We have 32 boroughs and housing associations. One of the big issues is a lack of housing, which is a different issue to other parts of the country, where there is more housing. There are differences in London. As soon as I have results, I am more than happy to share them with the Member.

Reoffending

2021/3913

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: On another topic, I am sure you appreciate that mental health issues are a huge problem amongst offenders. There are lots of statistics on this, some that jump out at me: 64% of male prisoners have a diagnosed personality disorder and 51% of female prisoners suffer from depression. That is obviously troubling for many reasons, not least when they finish their sentences and go back out into the community.

What work are you doing with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the VRU to help ex-offenders with mental health issues?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There are two big issues that really worry me that we can make a difference on. One is mental ill health in our secure estate. The other is lack of numeracy and literacy. Many people inside prisons and young offenders' institutions have the reading age or the numeracy of somebody aged 11 and so their ability to get a job is limited.

What we are trying to do is to do work inside the secure estate. Even though it is not directly speaking our responsibility, they are going to at some stage leave the secure estate and become Londoners. As recently as yesterday I spoke with the National Health Service (NHS). [Dr] Martin Griffiths [CBE], who is the Clinical Director of Violence Reduction, is doing a lot of work now, therapeutic assistance, therapeutic work inside the secure estate, particularly around mental ill health, to give those in the secure estate the help they need whilst they are there, but also make sure once they leave the prison or young offenders' institution that help is there in the community as well. Here is an irony; you get more assistance in the secure estate for mental ill health than you do when you have been released. That cannot be right. We are trying to make sure there is joined-upness.

This money, by the way, came from a combination of the Home Office and the [Operation] Vanguard endowment scheme as well. We were very pleased to be successful in our bid. That is just beginning now, but again, bearing in mind your interest in this area, I am more than happy for you to speak with the team to see what they are doing. It is a really important point because, as in my main answer, too many of those whom we arrest and charge with a violent offence have previously been convicted and so something is going wrong in relation to reducing reoffending.

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you. I agree with that. Some research in America showed recently that 5% of criminal offenders are committing 50% of crime in certain cities. I would appreciate if we could set that meeting up. That would be great.

Homophobic Crime

2021/4223

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: When looking at the stats, Mr Mayor, there seems to be a pattern over the last decade of homophobic hate crimes drastically rising over the summer in particular. Have you analysed the reasons for this, or will you look into the reasons for this particular phenomenon of a spike in hate crime over summer? What work specifically can be done to prevent summer spikes in the future? You have already outlined a lot of what you are doing, and I thank you for that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You raise a number of issues. Firstly, what the story of the Battle of Cable Street tells us is about the coalition of allies. It was not just the Jewish community, it was a coalition of allies and it is really important to remember that.

I am paying close attention to the inquest taking place in relation to the homophobic murders in London. It raises serious issues that we need to talk about. Let me go away and look into whether there are any seasonal patterns that you referred to. We have data and so we can check whether that happened if we look at previous years. I will come back to you and to the Assembly to give you an update so that I can give you a proper answer in relation to any patterns that you are talking about.

Homophobic Crime

2021/4223

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: To my second question, whilst you have spoken about homophobia today, it is also important to note that many other forms of hate crime have risen over the past year or so at a time when most other types of crime have been falling. Indeed, I understand the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales has reached a record high level. From March 2020 to March 2021, 124,000 hate crime offences were recorded, a 9% increase, and a 10% fall in prosecutions. That is completely unacceptable.

Given this and the increasing series of hate crimes that we have discussed today, can you provide some reassurance that the new officers being introduced as part of the town centre teams, who will be operating where many of these hate crimes occur, will be fully trained in how to record these crimes, and provide appropriate support to victims?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We need to make sure they are. Again, Assembly Member Desai, let me go and make sure that the new officers in particular are, rather than the refresher courses that those existing [officers] are.

Crime Prevention and knife images

2021/4053

Caroline Russell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I, as I often do, thank you and Siân [Berry AM] for pushing this issue over the last few years. I saw the exchange at the Police and Crime Committee, or I saw the television report of the exchange and it was really interesting.

As I have said, there are two really big pieces of work coming out imminently, and it is important for the police to look at that work because that would be the evidence that you are talking about, which is difficult to dispute, assuming the evidence is as you suggest it may be. Let us wait and see what the evidence is. You can guess from what the VRU does, which I am responsible for, in relation to the view of the VRU, which Lib Peck [Director, VRU] was quite clear about. The evidence will hopefully persuade the MPS, if it is as you suggest, to change its stance as well. You can still make the point that the MPS wants to make about the hard work that it is doing taking knives and offensive weapons off our streets, without the negative connotations that that imagery can have.

Caroline Russell AM: You mentioned this research is coming soon. I have heard this morning it is likely not to be coming until next Easter and so that is not this year. It is coming in next year. The research is from the University of Strathclyde, which it has done with the Scottish VRU. Young people have said that showing distinctive or “flashy” looking images of knives might influence people to adopt knife carrying. Dr Charlotte Coleman from Sheffield Hallam University, who helped with that study, said that,

“[The knife] images had the potential to frighten susceptible young people into carrying knives for self-defence, but equally others could be excited by them, prompting them to carry a knife because they thought doing so was ‘cool’.”

Do you not think it is time that we do listen to the academics and the young people? I do acknowledge that the VRU is not showing these images, but do you not think that you could ask the MPS to suspend the practice of showing these knife images on social media at least until the formal research comes out?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to direct the MPS to the work you have talked about. I have not seen the latest stuff you have talked about and the MPS clearly has got to consider it. This is an operational matter, but I am more than happy to forward on the new research you have talked about if it is new. As I said to you, my understanding is that the two pieces of work from Sheffield Hallam and UCL were imminent. If you are saying they are now being delayed until Easter next year, which is six months away, that may change the MPS’s view in relation to them looking at the recent evidence in the near future, rather than it being six months away. I am more than happy, Chair, to pass on to the MPS the latest evidence you are talking about.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you very much.

18 November 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Mayor's Action Plan for improving transparency, accountability and trust in policing
2021/4401 **Caroline Russell AM**

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I appreciate you have been doing a lot of work on police powers, working with Black communities and working to ensure police better understand communities. I want to pick up on police accountability and disproportionality and raise with you a recent example of a lack of transparency.

In July [2021] I asked you about the demographics of people who had their e-scooters seized. My intention was to check whether there was any disproportionality. The response in September said and I quote, "The MPS does not have the data to be able to report against this," and so I was very interested when the charity Possible recently used FOIs to the MPS to ask about the demographics of people stopped for e-scooter offences. These FOIs revealed that Black Londoners were over three times more likely to be stopped for e-scooter offences than white Londoners, and so the data clearly does exist and reveals a worrying disproportionality.

Your answer to the written question was not quite right and I understand that the MPS would have provided that information, but are you comfortable with that lack of transparency?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, no. What the Member raises is a source of concern. If the information exists and it is easily providable, it should be provided, particularly when your function in a democracy is to hold me and the police to account. That is how we engender more confidence.

Can I, Chair, with your permission, take this away and speak to my Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] and to you to see what went wrong and to reassure myself there are no other examples where things may have gone wrong?

Caroline Russell AM: That would be great. I am not here to gotcha the police but, as you say, my job as an Assembly Member is to scrutinise and I cannot do that if I do not have that information. Now that I have made you aware of this, I welcome your response.

Can you also consider in the spirit of the transparency aim of your action plan to commit to reporting the data on e-scooter seizures so that it can be scrutinised to check for disproportionality, and will you add it to your action plan dashboard?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am not sure how easy or difficult it is but let us work on the basis that it is not difficult. If that is the case, then we should provide it, not just to you but it should be provided. Can I, as part of the work that you are going to do with my Deputy Mayor and me, take that away as well. I do not see why, if it is the case that information is available, we are not providing it.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you very much. That is a welcome commitment.

Mayor's Action Plan for improving transparency, accountability and trust in policing
2021/4401 **Caroline Russell AM**

Caroline Russell AM: There are some outstanding actions that the MPS needs to do for the Police and Crime Committee that stretch back to 15 May 2018. That is over three and a half years ago, which is actually longer than your second term as Mayor is going to be. Only 34% of October's written Mayor's questions about policing were answered in the MOPAC-agreed timeframe, September was 61% and July only 37%. Will you speak to MOPAC and the MPS about their openness and transparency with the Assembly?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. Chair, I am more than happy to. Of course I am. Some of that is simply bandwidth. What we are criticised for doing is having too many staff working for MOPAC and doing the accountability stuff that is so important in a democracy and trying to pivot the resources towards frontline services. We have to make sure we balance the resources around that. If it is the case that the staff who are there should be providing swifter responses, but they are not for other reasons, we will look into it.

Again, can I take that away and speak to my Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] and the Chief Executive [of MOPAC] and see what the source is and why that is the case and rectify it?

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you very much.

20 January 2022- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Hate Crime

2022/0128

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I am very short of time. I was going to debate the different types of reporting and the different levels of reporting on the different types of crime, but the big ask really is - and you are right, we need to get more of these reported, I agree with you - would you commit to doing an advertising campaign on the Underground and on the advertising spaces that you have to encourage more people to report hate crime and explain the different routes they have? They do not have to go via the police.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): As I mentioned, we do have the campaign on the Underground. I am slightly nervous because the Chairman of the Budget and Performance Committee is always criticising me for spending resources, time, and effort on marketing. If he can get her to agree to this, I am sure I can look into this.

Keith Prince AM: We are not promoting you, Mr Mayor, we are trying to get people to report hate crime.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Advertisements cost money. If he can persuade the Chairman of his Budget and Performance Committee to see the benefits of marketing, to see the benefits of promotion, I am more than happy to look into ideas he has.

Omicron and Metropolitan Police Service

2022/0410

Krupesh Hirani AM

Krupesh Hirani AM: Would you join my call to make sure that those vehicles that are more susceptible to these types of crimes are called back so that they can be made as safe as possible, without charge to the consumer? It is an issue that I think we were unaware of when these vehicles were produced or sold. The newer ones seem to have tackled it, but the older vehicles are still susceptible to this crime. Is this something that you would like to see manufacturers do more on?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, Assembly Member Hirani has raised an important issue and a good example of where his expertise can help me. Chair, why don't I speak to the Assembly Member offline, he can share with me the letters he has written, and I can amplify that? I can also make contact with the manufacturers that he is talking about and ask the police also to use Assembly Member Hirani's expertise to write to the Society of Motor Manufacturers as well, who are the umbrella group. Some of your experience locally and the work you have done, we may be able to amplify across the rest of London as well.

Krupesh Hirani AM: Thank you

24 February 2022- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

MOPAC Component Budget [1]

Neil Garratt AM: You described the process and there is, as far as I know, cross-party agreement on the general approach. The question is when you look at individual projects and how we know they are working. If we are spending money, which we know is scarce, on things that are not working, it could be diverted into something that is working and deliver an outcome. Clearly, the outcome we are looking for is less youth violence and fewer youth murders. Do we have milestone measures to check that we are going in the right direction?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, we do. Within the VRU - and I know the Director has discussed this at a GLA Oversight Committee - there are metrics in relation to the qualitative work individual projects are doing. Roughly speaking, there are 126 projects funded by the VRU. Within those individual projects, there is qualitative data and metrics that are used to measure the success of the projects. It is not simply, "Project A saw 20 kids." It is about what you are doing with the 20 children, what the outputs are and so forth. A good example would be a project I know about in relation to those in danger of being excluded. If you help X number of children in danger of being excluded, how many stayed in school and were not excluded?

I am sure we can ask the Director of the VRU to come to whatever committee - whether it is the PCC or GLA Oversight Committee - to give you some examples of the metrics within each project that is funded and also on a macro level in relation to some of the metrics the VRU is looking into. I will just remind you, on top of that, there is some of the work Caroline [Russell AM] talked about in relation to the Young Londoners Fund work as well. There is clearly an overlap there.

Neil Garratt AM: The challenge that we see is that the information that we get is at a very high level. It is the result of that process you have just described there. The more detailed information does not seem to come to us. Can we --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am really happy to speak to the Director today - the VRU Director is Lib Peck - about whichever is the relevant committee. I do not mind whether it is the PCC or Oversight. I am guided by you, Chair. I will get Lib Peck to speak to Assembly Member Garratt offline with his advice about which is the right committee to go to as well. I am really keen to share the data we have. We are data-rich because one of the things we learned from Glasgow was that data matters for the reasons you know. We have the information and we want to share it.

Neil Garratt AM: That is very kind. I will take you up on that offer, Mr Mayor. Thank you.

Andrew Boff AM (Chair): Thanks. If you could address that data to me as Chair, that would be better.

MOPAC Component Budget [2]

Tony Devenish AM: Mr Mayor, good morning. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is working with MOPAC to hopefully save Notting Hill Police Station for community use rather than just another large private development in my borough. Will we hear any news on the outcome before purdah, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I know the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has very good relations with private developers. Some would say they are in their pockets.

As far as the relevant police station is concerned, one of the things we did is to keep a community centre open there, particularly because of the concerns of the community post Grenfell [Tower fire]. I do not have the details in relation to the community centre's timelines, but I am more than happy to ask the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, to contact the Assembly Member to give an update on where we are with the community centre.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Chair.

24 March 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Stop and Search [1]

2022/1196

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Thanks, Mr Mayor. The other question I had was to focus really on finding weapons. We know that stop and search is very invasive and there has been some talk of scan and search technology, especially on the TfL network. There was a pilot of this in 2019. However, what I wanted to ask you was what you thought of scan and search technology, but I do not think that would be a very fair question because there has never been a review or any analysis of that pilot. Would you please look to get some analysis of that to see if it is a useful tool that we could use?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, you are right about the experience with TfL. One of the issues in relation to the body scanning technology is you have seen the issues at the airports. It is not realistic to have that sort of technology on the streets but also some of the practical issues. If you imagine the disruption to a street, the congestion it would cause people in relation to if there was that on a street. Also, how do you use that technology in relation to metal detectors and manage to stop somebody carrying a bag of cocaine, who is using it to supply and so forth? We do look at the evidence and we look at what happens around the country and around the world. There is going to still be a need for stop and search, but you are right; we should also be looking at whether there is new technology. We are using the body scanners in schools now more and more, and the arches more and more. What it does often do is lead to people avoiding the arches and so forth, but all these things have got to be kept under review, including looking at what works around the country and around the globe.

Emma Best AM: Thanks. Will you take that away to try and get some analysis of that 2019 pilot?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have got a feeling - that is just a memory - that there was some. Can I go away and if there was, I will provide it to you and if there is not, I will find out why? I just think there was, but I have not got it in my briefing if that is OK.

Emma Best AM: OK.

Stop and Search [2]

2022/1196

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Just finally, as you mentioned it briefly, knife wands. The funding from MOPAC has fallen off for knife wands and so I went away and spoke to some schools because I wondered if that has fallen apart. They are not actually that expensive and the spending is not that high. I wondered whether it is because schools do not want to use them, and I got a positive response from many schools. Could we perhaps look to rolling out knife wands further to those schools that are interested?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am really happy to respond to this because we did a lot of work and Sophie Linden [Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime] and Lib Peck [Director, Violence Reduction Unit] did a lot of work. In relation to saying to schools, "You working with the police and having knife wands, doesn't mean you'll get a bad reputation", it is a safeguarding issue and it is changing the mindset of heads who may think they are worried about their school being labelled - we know we would not do this - a "bad school" because there are School Officers and knife wands. That conversation is carrying on with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), but I am more than happy, Deputy Chairman, for Lib [Peck] to write to the Member. There has been some progress made. I have got to be honest the Child Q case may lead to some retrenchment in relation to the progress we have made, but I am happy to take that away and respond to you.

Crime against London's LGBT community [1]

2022/1239

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your answers and there are a few things you mentioned I will touch on. You started off talking about the Stephen Port case and it is clear that that has had a significant impact on trust and confidence in the police among London's LGBT community. We had a Transport Committee visit to Barking recently and I arrived a little early and I went to St Margaret's Church to pay my respects to Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor. I am afraid whilst I was there, standing at that church, I felt sadness and also a deep feeling of anger about the failings of the MPS investigation. You mentioned the Coroner's report and the Coroner's report says there were failings that came out in the hearings that were not identified in the original Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation. The IOPC is currently reviewing whether it needs to reopen that investigation, as I am sure you know, and it is due - I think overdue, in fact - to announce whether or not it will be reopening. I have written to it asking it to reopen that investigation. Will you add your voice to that? Will you ask it to reopen the investigation as well?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, let me just say that the feelings you feel and felt are not dissimilar, as you know, from the feelings felt by not just the family and friends of the four victims of Stephen Port but of the members of the LGBT community. I know Unmesh Desai [AM] has raised this on a number of matters because of his experience in that part of London for obvious reasons. We have raised it with the IOPC, as with the Deputy Mayor [for Policing

and Crime]. I am happy though to get an update from it in relation to them because you are right. The evidence at the inquest should prompt it into reviewing its original findings, but I am more than happy to provide you with an update subsequent to this meeting, even if it is in purdah, offline.

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you, I would appreciate that.

Crime against London's LGBT community [2]
2022/1239 **Nicholas Rogers AM**

Nicholas Rogers AM: Moving to another topic, you mentioned the additional £11.3 million that will be supporting domestic abuse victims. Could you go into a bit more detail about how that will specifically be used to help LGBT domestic abuse victims?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course, I can and thank you for your interest. Some of the money is going to go towards Galop to provide pan-London support through a case worker. Some of the money is going to Stonewall Housing for the provision of housing information, advice and support through every step of the LGBT victim/survivor's journey, through every step from crisis through to recovery, ensuring they are able to live independently and can rebuild their lives. I am more than happy to write to him to give him how much money is going to each group, but we are working to make sure that some of the money is ring-fenced for this community for obvious reasons.

Nicholas Rogers AM: Thank you, I would appreciate that breakdown.

Crime against London's LGBT community [3]
2022/1239 **Nicholas Rogers AM**

Nicholas Rogers AM: During the pandemic, MOPAC provided emergency accommodation for LGBT domestic abuse victims, and I believe there were 129 referrals for four-bed spaces so there is a clear need there. Are there any plans to resurrect that service?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, we did provide the emergency services during the pandemic, and we did get assistance from the Home Office as well. I have not got that briefing. Again, can I take that away and come back to you? I do not want to mislead unintentionally if that is OK.

Nicholas Rogers AM: Yes, that would be fine.

Working with communities in London

2022/1253

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Do you see any value in Safer Neighbourhood Boards? Recently, we had a motion go through unanimously, calling on yourself to support Safer Neighbourhood Boards more and recognise the good work they do. Again, do you see any value in these Boards?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. Generally, speaking, yes. Some are good, some are excellent, some are not so great, but yes, as a general way of engaging with the community, I do.

Shaun Bailey AM: Well, can you then go back to MOPAC and ask it why it does not? For instance, your [Police and] Crime Plan talks a lot about engagement but does not mention the words "Safer Neighbourhood Boards" once. Many Safer Neighbourhood Boards will talk about the fact that MOPAC is very hard to work with. Funding that is promised to them does not come in a timely fashion. The first thing I will ask is: can you go back and make sure that these things are taken care of?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, of course, I can take that away.

Shaun Bailey AM: OK.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will write to the Member to give a response to his point.

Shaun Bailey AM: OK, because the deeper thing is I have written to Sophie Linden [Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime] now a number of times about the Safer Neighbourhood Boards and she has come back with some underwhelming responses. The real worry here is people are under the impression that MOPAC is going to run Safer Neighbourhood Boards into the ground by not supporting them properly. The funding is there, you have committed the funding, but it does not provide it in a timely fashion. They are worried that it is going to run them into the ground. Can you give us an assurance that is not the case?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, that is not the intention, but let me take away what you have said in relation to the lack of support you are saying some Boards feel and let us see what we can do to address that. They have got an important role to play and, as I said, some are excellent, some are good, some are less good. The more support we give them the more that can be good or excellent, is it not?

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you for that. The three things I believe they had asked for are greater flexibility around how the funding is provided, what it can be used for, the funding to arrive on time and also for MOPAC to just attend meetings and give them more airtime because they are very worried that they are being side-lined. Again, the Police and Crime Plan talks about engagement but does not talk about Safer Neighbourhood Boards and they took this as quite a worrying sign.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): OK. Can I take that away and come back to you on that?

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you.

19 May 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Value for Money

2022/1663

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Your focus has been rightly on violent crime, that is correct, of your time of being Mayor, but could we ask for MOPAC to do specific work around sanction detection rates around things like robbery, knife crime, and so on? You pointed out what has been done around rape and there is some success there. If we were to do another specific piece of work to help sanction detection rates in those areas, do you believe it would help?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have no problem at all in the Police and Crime Committee, which may be the correct forum for these conversations to take place, to speak to the acting Commissioner -- I know he is keen on particularly robbery as well. You will appreciate during the pandemic we saw some improvements there because there were fewer reports of robbery, because there were fewer people in the West End, for argument’s sake. Whether we can build on that progress going forward as well, I am more than happy to ask the acting Commissioner with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to come along to the Police and Crime Committee to discuss other things we can be doing to improve sanction detection rates. Just to reassure you, it is also a national initiative as well. I know the Home Secretary is quite concerned in relation to the 43 forces nationally. The sanction detections have not been as high as they should be. I am more than happy for them to come back to the Police and Crime Committee to explore with the Committee what more work can be done there.

Action on the Building Safety Crisis (Supplementary) [2]

2022/1380

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Just very briefly, Mr Mayor, the Assembly agreed that it thought it was a good idea that you brought in a London Safety Hub. Nothing has happened with that and that would really assist here. Can you tell us whether you are going to be doing that on our recommendation or not and, if you are, when will you do that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, with the Member’s permission, can I drop her a note later on today about an update in relation to the Hub? I do not have it in my briefing, and it is my fault, not hers. Can I drop her a note today?

Susan Hall AM: Yes, please. Thank you.

23 June 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Violent Crime
2022/2003

Len Duvall OBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can understand the issues you are raising completely. I often receive operational briefings that I cannot divulge to the public for obvious reasons, but also you can understand why the police are a bit reluctant to give a running commentary. Why? As there may well be an IOPC investigation. Why? As there may well be a criminal case arising from the interaction because the civilian is arrested or charged or there may even be a criminal prosecution against an officer. You can understand why the MPS does not want to explain more than it has, but you are right to articulate the frustration. Often, it can take months or years before the IOPC or the Directorate of Professional Standards or whatever gives a conclusion and in that time the public is seeing just one version of events, albeit a clip. I get your frustration. The police are always trying to find better ways of communicating with the public.

What I am happy to do, Chair, with your permission, is to take away the point raised in the very responsible way it has been relayed by Assembly Member Len Duvall to see whether the Acting Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis] and the Acting Deputy Commissioner can think about being more brave. I think that is what you are asking for, being more brave in explaining as near as possible to the incident the other side of the story, rather than this delay leading to people prejudging and leading to less trust and confidence. Can I take that away and see what more they can do? I think it is an operational response, rather than coming from me for obvious reasons.

Len Duvall AM: Yes.

Missing Children
2022/2203

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: OK. My last thing, Mayor, is could we go back to the MPS and ask for a richer dataset? When you go through the data, there are lots of gaps like not knowing the age of the children, ethnicity of the children, etc, etc, which would all be very important in keeping children safe in London. Is it possible to ask the MPS to look again at its protocol and the level of data it captures and not just capture data for data’s sake but data that would be useful in keeping children safe in a preventative way?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, the question before that you asked was very important about sharing data and a lot of the information the MPS has is data from other partners. Everyone needs to understand we are not simply ticking a box; the data needs to serve a purpose. You are spot on. You will be aware - I am sure you are because I know you follow this closely - but there is a disproportionality in who the missing children are in relation to ethnicity, right?

Shaun Bailey AM: Yes.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You are right, in gender as well, and so you are spot on. It is not simply ticking a box that we have the data, but actually it has to be useful. I am more than happy, Chair, to take that away and ask the MPS to speak to partners as well because they often provide the data, the raw data stuff. It is a really good point and well made.

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you.

Action Plan on Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing progress 2022/1819

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Your action plan was produced in response to a massive outpouring of emotion and rightful criticism of the police following the Black Lives Matter protests. You promised it would improve trust and confidence and deal with community concerns about disproportionality in the use of police powers. Progress is supposed to be reported quarterly and until last Wednesday the most recent update was December. That is a six-month gap in reporting, therefore the update was three months late. It is difficult for Assembly Members to hold you and the MPS to account without that up-to-date data. Will you just briefly make sure going forward that these updates are published quarterly as promised?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to. Some of the reasons why the public meetings have not taken place is because of the pandemic and they have been hybrid. However, I am more than happy to take that away, yes.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you.

Action Plan on Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing progress 2022/1819

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: You shared some data with me in response to an MQ showing that strip search is being used disproportionately on Black Londoners. There are three mentions of strip search in your action plan and two of them are about adding strip searches to the action plan dashboard, which I asked you about in March, and has not yet been done. Therefore, strip search looks to be a gap in the action plan. How are you planning to address this?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are working closely with the IOPC on this very issue, and I am more than happy to ask the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to write to the Member. As she will be aware, in particular with children, there are serious issues raised by Child Q and it has since been reported in the public, therefore I am not breaching confidences, about two other children. However, I am more than happy to get Sophie Linden [Deputy

Mayor for Policing and Crime] to share with the Member some of the work we are doing with the IOPC on this very issue.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you.

**Action Plan on Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing
progress
2022/1819**

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Will you and the MPS end the practice of strip-searching children except in very exceptional circumstances with strict safeguards in place?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): To be fair, the rules are already quite clear, and that is one of the reasons why the IOPC is now looking at gross misconduct in relation to breaches of the rules. Therefore, there are two issues, (1) is are the rules clear enough, and (2) is how they are used by police officers. That is one of the things the IOPC is looking into. Again I am more than happy, without breaching confidences or in any way affecting what happens with the IOPC and their investigation, to ask the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to share with the Member the work that has been undertaken, some of which I know will reassure her.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you.

21 July 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Reducing road death and injury through policing
2022/2541 **Caroline Russell AM**

Caroline Russell AM: My question is: if you are going to meet your Vision Zero target, does the Serious Collision Investigation Unit need to be investigating more of the serious collisions, and would you commit to that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I thank the Member for asking the question the way she did, and can I take that away? We do, when we give figures, mention not just those killed but also seriously injured, for the reasons you suggest, but your follow-up point about investigations is one that I want to look into because the stats you mention are clearly worrying. Can I, Chair, take that away and be in touch with the Member offline or ask my Deputy Mayor [for Transport] to do so?

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you. I think there is a huge opportunity to learn from these investigations, so that is appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Reducing road death and injury through policing
2022/2541 **Caroline Russell AM**

Caroline Russell AM: Indeed. More importantly - and this is my final question - at the policing [London Assembly] Plenary meeting back in December [2021] my colleague, Siân Berry AM, asked the then Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis] for an MPS dashboard monitoring the MPS's commitment to Vision Zero so that we can find up-to-date data on enforcement of speeding and dangerous driving. The Commissioner was happy to look at it. My brief final question: where is the MPS road policing dashboard that we are waiting for?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not on top of that information. Again, Chair, with your permission, can I write back to the Member and let her know what progress has been made in relation to the dashboard she mentioned?

Caroline Russell AM: That would be much appreciated, thank you.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner (Supplementary) [1]
2022/2487 **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you. The new Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, brings vast experience in operational policing, but the MPS's toxic culture and organisational failings cannot be resolved just by a change at the top alone. It requires the input of experts in change management. Will you agree to appoint experts in organisational and cultural change to the

MPS's management board to ensure the new Commissioner gets the expert support and advice needed to deliver the radical change required?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am always careful not to trespass into operational matters, but Sir Mark understands the importance of getting the right team around him and, also, he has acknowledged the importance of outside expertise. I will make sure that Sir Mark sees the comments raised by the Assembly Member, which may help develop his thinking around this issue.

However, at the core of what the Member is saying, you are right regarding the narrowmindedness in relation to some of the views that can happen in an organisation. Sometimes bringing somebody else in -- the MPS is not the first organisation to have issues in relation to the status quo and always knowing best. In that change of culture, outside expertise can help, whether it is ad hoc or whether it is somebody on the management board. The way you have said what you have said, it is really important for Sir Mark to see that. I will make sure that is passed on.

Strip search of children 2022/2447

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. You have already talked about disproportionality, which was going to be my first question, but I just want to put this on record. In March [2022] we found out that for the past three years 75% of the 5,200 children who were strip-searched in custody were from ethnic minority backgrounds. This is not acceptable at all. I was going to ask you. Are you confident that the MPS is doing enough to address this obvious and clear disproportionality on racial grounds - I think you already answered that - and how are you monitoring their work on this?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is really important and clearly more needs to be done here. I met recently with Laurence Taylor [Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Local Policing, MPS] and I know he came to the Police and Crime Committee as well. This will be one of the issues for the new Commissioner to look into, for the reasons that you are aware of in relation to the concerns we have. The approach of the police must be child-centred, that is really important and so I am more than happy to refer your comments to the new Commissioner as well.

Unmesh Desai AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

13 October 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Violence Against Women and Girls (Supplementary) [1]
2022/3459 **Shaun Bailey AM**

Shaun Bailey AM: OK. Can I make a plea that we try to figure out a piece of work that deals with people who are above youth centre age and primary school age, because they are the people who are carrying the knives and are causing a fair amount of distress in communities? I wondered if you could go back to the VRU and get them to do some thinking around how they speak to those who are 17 and upwards, who are very unlikely to bubble up in a youth club and certainly are not at primary age anymore.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The work of the VRU goes to 24. It is not just for those below the age of 17. The VRU is doing lots of work with people up to the age of 24. I am more than happy for Lib Peck [Director, VRU] to meet with the [Assembly] Member and to give him a briefing on all the great work they are doing.

Shaun Bailey AM: I would appreciate that. Thank you, Chair.

Economy

27 May 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Delivering Manifesto Commitments and the GLA Budget

Question Number: 2021/1781

Len Duvall AM

Len Duvall AM: In that spirit of reaching out to the Government, could I just highlight one particular scheme, the Kickstart scheme, aimed at 18 to 24-year-olds? Of course, this is a very important scheme and the Government is right to prioritise that, but there are problems with it. There are problems with the Government reaching its targets. All the private-sector people that I talk to in my constituency are saying it is not working for them.

Will you use your office and influence to bring the partners of London together to speak to the Government, to see if there are some changes and tweaks to the scheme that can benefit everyone, and make it easier and more accessible for those who need that support to employ others? Immediately, we have some time here, it looks like, for the economy. Your recent release says where it is going at the moment. It is about using this time properly to get schemes like this to work properly not just for London, but for the country.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, spot on. The Kickstart scheme is a good scheme. The theory is great. We had one similar in 2008, 2009 and 2010. It has had a mixed response. I hope the Government will be flexible enough to adapt it to make sure it meets the aspirations of businesses. Businesses want to invest in young people and they want to play their role, but it is not quite working as the Government intended. We are happy to work with them. We have a huge amount of expertise. We also speak to many businesses - small, medium and large - that could really add input to this.

24 June 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Disability Employment Gap
2021/2435

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: I agree with you that we do need to have cross-party working, including with the Government, but will you set a specific target in terms of what percentage of disabled Londoners will not have a job at the end of your eight years?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy, Chair, to ask the Good Work for All mission to look at whether it is realistic to set targets in relation to this area. Just so you know, one of the factors outside our control is what happens to unemployment. You will know that one of the things we are trying to avoid is the mass unemployment we saw in the 1980s. There are three parts of that: to protect the jobs we have, to support the creation of new jobs, as well as to support those who lose their jobs get back into work as soon as possible. A lot of these things are outside the control of City Hall. Let's Do London is about a rapid recovery. If we get a rapid recovery, it makes it more likely we can be supporting more disabled Londoners rather than less likely.

Tony Devenish AM: Could you set a target in terms of disabled Londoners who would have jobs with the GLA group organisations?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am more than happy for the functional groups' meeting, which meets regularly, to raise this issue in relation to them. That includes TfL, MPS, the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and the Development Corporations (DCs). I can ask them to look into this.

London Disability Employment Taskforce

2021/2222

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your answer. This is obviously a subject that I think is a concern for many Members here in the Assembly. It has been three years since the Social Market Foundation and Trust for London recommended that you set up a Disability Employment Taskforce, and two years since the London Assembly Economy Committee recommended the same. London needs a targeted and focused task group on getting Londoners with disabilities into work. It is clear that including disabled Londoners in a general employment programme has not worked, yet that is all you are doing, more of the same. I agree that we need skills for all Londoners. Will you now agree clearly that there is a need for a specialised and targeted intervention to get Londoners with disabilities into work?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am sorry that Tony Devenish [AM] stole Hina Bokhari's thunder, but the problem with that is she failed to listen to the answer I gave to the Member, who asked a very good question in relation to how we can work together. The answer I gave is that we have only now set up the group doing the work on the Recovery Programme, so I find it hard to accept criticisms of the work done by the group when it has only just been set up. I am more than happy to arrange, Chair, for one of the officers to brief the Member about the work the group is doing.

09 September 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Supporting Businesses and helping London's Recovery
2021/3749 **Peter Fortune AM**

Peter Fortune AM: Speaking with businesses, not just across Bexley and Bromley, but across London, they say that a big issue for them is around late payments. I spoke recently with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), which highlighted this very issue on its Fair Pay Fair Play award-winning campaign. It produced an excellent document called *Recovery and Renewal*. If you have not seen it, it is worth a go. You will be pleased to know it has a specific ask for you, which is creating a business environment in the capital where we look to end the scourge of late payments once and for all. Is that something you think you can support?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. If the Assembly Member can send me the report, or I will get it myself. Look, when I say I have run a business, it was a nightmare, the cash flow, because not getting money in means you are having to borrow to pay money out. It is a big stress. I have not seen the report yet. I will look into it and if there are things we can be doing, more than happy to do so. We also, by the way, checked that we pay our suppliers quickly and speedily, particularly the small ones. It is really important and so I will double-check to reassure myself. I will read the report. If there are more things we can be doing, I am more than happy to do so to help our businesses.

Peter Fortune AM: I think that is really encouraging to hear, because I had a look and there is no mention of late payments or dealing with late payments in the *Recovery and Renewal* paper or in the manifesto. Because I could not find one, do you know if the GLA has a current policy on late payments or making sure that we pay on time?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, we do have a policy. I know, because I checked it a while ago. As a consequence of the question, I do want to reassure myself again. It is always worth being vigilant. Let me check that again. I will drop you a line, but also I will read the report and see what more we can and should be doing, because it is a big challenge, I know, and it is a big stress, particularly with margins being so tight in the short term.

Peter Fortune AM: It really is, because in 2018/19 there were 1,280 invoices paid late, and that was a value of £13.5 million. This is from the GLA. In 2019/20, there were 1,242 late payments to a value of £12.4 million, rounding up. You will impress me now if you have the figures for how many late payments we have got outstanding.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am sorry, I was not aware that was a question, but I do undertake to go away and look into that, because it is a very important issue and it would be heart-breaking if now that we have come out of the pandemic - fingers crossed - and restrictions are lifted, a business did not stay afloat because of a lack of cash flow. We know, hopefully, there are good times coming, so let me look into that and I will undertake to respond to the Member.

Environment

27 May 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Edmonton Incinerator

Question Number: 2021/1919

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: I can assure you that the fight on the Edmonton incinerator is not over. It is not over for campaigners; it is not over for cross-party Members of Parliament (MPs) working on this; it is not over for National Health Service (NHS) doctors writing openly about their opposition; it is not over for the British Heart Foundation, writing openly about its opposition. It appears that it is not over for your office, which suggested that the modelling for the Edmonton incinerator did not support the capacity that is being built.

I would ask you to join that fight. Would you commit to meeting with campaigners who are currently working for a pause and a rethink of the Edmonton incinerator?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is really important that we are clear about who is responsible for giving permission and for continuing with the incinerator: it is the Government. I am always happy to work with particularly Members of the Assembly who are from the same party as the Government because they clearly have access that many others do not. If you have any influence over the Government, over the Secretary of State, or over the Ministers responsible for this decision, including a U-turn, then we are more than happy to work with you.

The reality is that we have explored all legal avenues open to us, including legal challenges, and, as I said in my answer, there are not any left to us. If there are any ideas you have that the Government will accede to, I am more than happy, Chair, through you, to work with Members of the Assembly.

Emma Best AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. To confirm, will you give a yes or no answer to meeting with campaigners? The fight, as I say, is really not over on this. As you have just acknowledged, I was elected to the Assembly and not to Parliament. However, MPs are still working to lobby the Government on this. As one of the most powerful politicians in the country and in London, will you join that fight and will you commit to meeting with campaigners?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to meet with campaigners, but you need to understand that I will be honest with them about who is responsible.

15 July 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report

2021/3263

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Flash flooding left some Londoners facing five feet of water in their homes and businesses. This needs serious reflection. Will you please write to the Assembly with a full report of what happened and what can we do to avoid it happening again please?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, the issue raised is an important one. I am more than happy to take it up and write to Thames Water, and then write to the Assembly.

Plastic-free London

2021/2678

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: What proportion of Tube stations still do not have water fountains?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy, Chair, to send the Member a list of the stations where we are planning to have fountains.

Plastic-free London

2021/2678

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: Another thing that you certainly could do, something that we are all trying to do, is to eliminate the use of plastic bottles in any part of the Greater London Authority (GLA) group, as recommended by the London Assembly Environment Committee in 2017. You can also make sure that single-use plastic bottles are not used in events, for example, that the GLA sponsors or supports. I am aware that plastic cutlery is no longer used in City Hall, which is great, but there are still plastic bottles in use in other places in the GLA group. I am interested to know what your thoughts are on that and, if so, when will these be removed?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Which ones do you mean?

Hina Bokhari AM: Let us say, for example, Transport for London (TfL) or the police. Are there other areas in the GLA where we can maybe introduce a plastic-free approach?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If there are examples that the Member is aware of where the GLA group is not following best practice, let me know and we will follow that up.

Plastic-free London (Supplementary)

2021/2678

Léonie Cooper AM

Léonie Cooper AM: Have we been able to advise other companies on how to approach de-plasticising their office environments? One of the areas apart from the on-the-go usage, which the single-use bottle campaign was about, which you have addressed through water fountains, is also plastic in use in people's offices. Is there more we can do to advise?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If there are any issues in particular you want to be lobbying on using the connections we have, we are more than happy to do so.

Toilets for Londoners this summer

2021/2724

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: I am almost out of time and I wonder if you could just write to me to let me know where these 250 toilet units, in particular the 180 that are accessible, are and when they will be ready.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to do so, Chair.

Heathrow Flight Path Changes

2021/2994

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: "A plane has just landed overhead at 10.10pm. It restarts at 4.30am, a six-hour window of peace." Yet, as you say, air traffic is down by 87%. Between those hours, will you basically ban night flights from 10.10pm to 4.30am?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I follow, Chair. We will lobby for the hours to be expanded. I am more than happy to speak to the Member. We have done some work on this. I do not have the latest responses on that time but I am more than happy, as somebody who is affected by this, to work with him because it is an issue. The hours are there. Your ask is to extend the night-time hours. Chair, can I work with the Member on this? This is a good example that, actually, we are on the same team here. Can I look into that and work with you offline?

Heathrow Flight Path Changes

2021/2994

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. What do you think of Heathrow's opaque plans to so-called double stack aircraft - have aircraft basically flying over each other - particularly at night?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The response we have done, Chair, is available on the website, but I will send it separately to the Member so that he is aware of what we said.

Heathrow Flight Path Changes

2021/2994

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Finally, do you think Heathrow has been very clear with Londoners on exactly what it is proposing? I have looked into this in detail and it is really complicated. Heathrow has not communicated it very clearly to Londoners.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will pass that on to the Chief Executive, who is really keen to rebuild relations with Londoners. He is really keen to learn the lessons from the past.

Championing Access to Green Space in London

2021/3085

Léonie Cooper AM

Léonie Cooper AM: In terms of the London Green Spaces Commission, the Commission did not call for it to cover pocket parks and small green spaces, which can be so vital, as you said, for many Londoners who may be slightly further away from larger spaces. Do you think it might be possible to protect these pocket parks and very small green spaces? I think they are part of the green lungs of London and very often are really valued by local people.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I agree. I thought that they were covered. If they are not, I will look into the point you made - I agree with you 100%, by the way - to make sure they are. I think it is very important.

Léonie Cooper AM: Thank you very much, that would be great. Perhaps I can correspond with you and we can sort that out.

09 September 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Boosting solar power on London roofs

2021/3507

Siân Berry AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): As part of the implementation of our Solar Action Plan, we have commissioned work to gather evidence and insights on the challenges and opportunities that existing planning regulations present to retrofitting residential properties in London, including the installation of solar PV. Recommendations are due back by the end of the year and I am very happy to keep the Member updated with the progress.

Siân Berry AM: As you say, national laws do not prevent solar in conservation areas, but local policies can be different, trickier, there can be an idea that solar panels are some kind of blot on the landscape and some genuine opposition. It is time to change the narrative, generate more demand, get people won over to how great and hopeful solar panels really look. We can take the lead from City Hall, like we do with the lovely Let's Do London campaign at the moment, we need a campaign on solar. Would you consider doing that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to meet with the Member. The passion with which she talks about this is quite inspiring. I am more than happy to organise a meeting with the relevant team to discuss what we can do to encourage the take-up of more solar energy. It is one of the things we need to do to get more renewables being used in London. She will be aware of the progress we have had in relation to the energy company, but it is a really good idea; can we take that away and pick your brain about what we can do to encourage greater take-up and also be more positive in relation to this?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, we are going to take forward the meeting with the Member. We have been working with boroughs who have been really good and some boroughs have been writing to their residents. My borough, Wandsworth, has been working with us in City Hall to encourage community take-up. The economies of scale mean the more people on a street who want to take up solar power, the cheaper it is. Therefore I am more than happy, as ever, to work with the Member on what we can do to benefit Londoners. This is a really good area we can work together on.

Zero emission vehicles
2021/3785

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. In the shortage of time, I would appreciate a written answer. But my very short question is: what percentage of the GLA Group vans and supply chain partners' vans do you think will be zero emission by May 2024?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can write with an answer. I suspect I have got some of the detail. We can give an answer for the GLA Group. The supply chain is contingent upon their ability to accelerate. Also, there may be some good news from the Government in relation to accommodation, an announcement that is pre-Glasgow, CSR and the Budget, which will accelerate that progress. With that caveat, I am more than happy to write to the Member.

18 November 2021 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Manifesto Commitments (Supplementary) [7]
2021/4573 **Krupesh Hirani AM**

Krupesh Hirani AM: Following on from the ULEZ, there was a report recently that showed that Londoners are ditching diesel vehicles six times greater than the rest of the country. With this in mind, are there any other further messages you can send to the Government on pollution from vehicles and how that can boost manufacturing? Will you commit to working with manufacturers to get some of that data on what it actually means to the economy of this country?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, but you raised a really important point about the pivoting from polluting diesels to electric.

Tackling air pollution in London
2021/4341 **Hina Bokhari AM**

Hina Bokhari AM: That is great news about the lobbying, but we need some money now. You did invest £20,000 back in 2018 with an industry information campaign, encouraging people who currently use an open fire to switch to a cleaner Ecodesign Ready Wood Burning Stove. That was welcome, but that was over three years ago and we do need some more money now. That was nothing compared to what we really have in front of us, a massive task. Will you write to me with some serious initiatives that you plan to take up and tackle this growing issue, particularly when it comes to that budget?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The reason why the industry work was so important is that they make the kit that is leading to the particulate matter coming out and if they have cleaner kit with the right wood burning material that will obviously lead to less particulate matter, so that was really important. As I said in my answer, we have applied to Defra for grant money to do more work going forward, but I am more than happy to write to the Member in relation to this work that we are doing. If she has got any idea of more monies we can be applying for or receiving, I am more than happy to listen to ideas that she may have.

Hina Bokhari AM: Thank you.

Tackling air pollution in London [1]

2021/4341

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Mr Mayor, a year ago I asked a written question about particulate pollution monitoring on the approaching roads to the Silvertown Tunnel, and received a vague reply about four months later. I wrote to you again back in June [2021], but I have not yet had a response. Where precisely will you be monitoring particulate matter on the approach roads to your tunnel?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think they have already started. There are several sites in Tower Hamlets and in Greenwich, there are several sites that also do nitrogen dioxide as well, and I think there is a site in Britannia Gate. I have to apologise for not responding to your letter in June [2021]. Can I look into that and make sure you get a proper response?

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I would be grateful to get those details.

16 December 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

London Power (Supplementary) [1]

2021/5043

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Thanks. I understand that. Given that answer, would you know when you will be able to make a reassessment working with London Power of when the company will be breaking even?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to get the relevant officer to write to the Member but, in the meantime, those customers who are using London Power are benefiting from huge discounts and green energy that is renewable. Once it is sensible to be taking on more customers, working with boroughs and housing providers, they will be doing so. Until we have done that, we cannot really give a proper assessment of income streams going forward for London Power. I am not sure if she is suggesting that we could.

24 March 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Awareness of Air Pollution in London

2022/0971

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: Rosamund [Kissi-Debrah], as you know, the mother of nine-year-old Ella who died of a severe asthma attack in 2013, said that before her daughter's death she was not aware of just how dangerous air pollution is. Everyone needs to be fully aware of the levels of air pollution in every part of London. Therefore, Londoners need and deserve targeted air pollution alerts for real behaviour change. The London Air and Breathe London websites feature London's air monitoring network but have many gaps. Many roads are not covered, especially in outer London.

Will you commit to improving current provision for air pollution monitors, especially on TfL routes, and will you also look into making sure there is proper monitoring on all access roads, including the Silvertown Tunnel?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, it was me as the Mayor who helped Rosamund get the fresh inquest because she was not satisfied with the first inquest. I wrote to the Attorney General. I worked closely with Professor [Sir] Stephen Holgate [CB, Imperial College London] to make sure we shared all the information we had. One of the things I discovered during the first few weeks of being Mayor was that a report had been done by the previous Mayor that had been buried away which showed just what you are saying. At the time, we knew that there was air pollution from local roads. You will remember that Rosamund lives near the South Circular. That is one of the reasons why we think that the alert system is so important and real-time information is so important with the air quality sensors we have across London.

I am happy to send you - because we are in danger of going in circles, Deputy Chairman - the six different actions from the London Clean Air and Health Summit, which will address the question, which may have been superseded by what was agreed at the London Clean Air and Health Summit.

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman in the Chair): Thank you, Mr Mayor.

19 May 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Rapid reductions in London’s carbon emissions
2022/1301 **Zack Polanski AM**

Zack Polanski AM: Brilliant. Well, we have some ideas there. I note that you thank us for chivvying you along on various things. I have noticed your drug policy is now being inspired by Green policy and also on road user charging. Would you now take up our policy of a frequent flyer levy?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure what that policy is, but I am more than happy for you to speak to me in relation to what that is.

Zack Polanski AM: Essentially, 15% of people take 70% of the flights and it is saying, essentially, the polluter pays. This is not going after people’s family holidays or someone going on one business trip, this is about the small amount of people who frequently fly and making sure that we are not subsidising aviation but actually we are subsidising trains. Presumably, that would be something you would be very interested in.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am more than happy to speak with the Member offline to discuss these things. Just to reassure Londoners, we actually often do get on, on this sort of stuff, and do have conversations. Sometimes they are animated; sometimes they are less so. It is a good example of looking for the best ideas. We do not want to be an administration that, just because of the colour of the party you belong to, it does not mean we do not talk to you. We do, and we listen as well. Can I take that away and ask colleagues in my team to speak to the Member to see any ideas he has in this area?

Zack Polanski AM: I really appreciate your collegiality on this

23 June 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Boosting solar power on London roofs (2) (Commitment one)
2022/1817 **Siân Berry AM**

Siân Berry AM: As you know, we spoke about solar power last September [2021] and about the potential barriers there are from the planning system, particularly for households, small businesses and community groups. You were very inspired, apparently, and you said, “Can we take that away and pick your brain about what we can do?” You promised us some research on the planning issues across London and that is one reason why I tabled the question today.

Your Deputy Mayor’s [for Environment and Energy] team has been in touch this week to say that it has recently finalised this work and it is just going through the necessary processes to be published and Shirley Rodrigues [Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy] has asked to meet me once this is available. That is progress, too. Do you have any headline findings from the research that you can share with me and the rest of the Assembly today?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, it has not come to me yet. It goes through a process where it comes to me and, as soon as it does, I am happy to share it with you offline in relation to what the headlines are, yes.

Siân Berry AM: OK. Yes, as you I know, Mr Mayor, we are always worth listening to. I am really looking forward to seeing that and will be meeting Shirley to talk about it.

Boosting solar power on London roofs (2) (Commitment two)
2022/1817 **Siân Berry AM**

Sadiq Khan AM: I always - and I hope you have experienced this over the last six years - work collegiately with people with good ideas. To be fair to those doing the research, Siân, they had to speak to councils. They had to respond. There was an election that took place that distracted the councils. We have now had the stuff in, which we are going through, but I am always happy to share with you the action plan that comes from the research.

Just to remind you, we agreed that removing the permitted development [rights] was, in hindsight, the wrong thing for the Government to do. It means that for those who want to have solar panels, which actually preserves the building because it is preserving their way of life by addressing climate change, it is more difficult to do so because they have to go through hoops. I am more than happy to work with you and more than happy to have you continue to, in a fraternal way, chivvy us to go even further, of course.

Siân Berry AM: Yes, no problem.

Recycling Rates in London 2022/1948

Léonie Cooper AM

Léonie Cooper AM: Do you think it would be possible and do you think there is any mileage to working with London Councils to introduce some more standardisation in terms of the way that the different segregated waste streams are collected? We have this issue that you have just mentioned, which is that Londoners do move around and most people, apart from politicians, do not know where boundaries between boroughs, let alone between wards, are. What you put in your green box in one borough goes in a brown tin in another. Is there anything that could be done to get London Councils and ReLondon to tackle that issue? It is tough for Londoners if you move house and sometimes even a couple of streets away the arrangements can be completely different.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): When I meet leaders from across the world, mayors, they find it incredulous that we literally - I am not blaming the councils - cannot get agreement about which day to collect refuse or which colour boxes to use and what foods to recycle and it is difficult. I am fully in favour of councils having autonomy over a variety of policy and I do not believe devolution means us taking powers away from councils at all. I am more than happy - it will give me huge pleasure - to pass on to the Chair of London Councils your suggestion and I look forward with glee to the response from them. Sometimes, there are genuine challenges in relation to this, but also if you think about it logically, we do not want all the big lorries going down the roads on the same day across the city, causing the challenges they cause. There are logistical reasons, which is what the council will explain. Some of it is because the same equipment is being used in different parts of the borough in different parts of the city on different days, so we do not want too much new machinery being bought. There are genuine reasons why, but you are spot on. We have to make it easier for people to recycle and do the right thing. It appears that we are putting obstacles in the way of people who want to be good citizens. Let me take it away - I know the spirit within which your question was asked - and speak to the Leader of London Councils to see what she can do to try to iron out some of these issues.

Léonie Cooper AM: OK. It absolutely has to be done in partnership; it is not something that could be imposed. I just wondered very briefly if you could just tell me. You mentioned Landfill Tax and London getting its fair share. Are we getting our fair share and, if not, how far short are we falling?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, we are quite a long way short, and we continue to lobby the Government in relation to this. Somebody mentioned in answer to a previous question my positive comments about [the Rt Hon] Michael Gove [MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities]. We are hoping that we can make progress here in relation lobbying on this. We are simply not going to meet our targets and we are simply not going to support our Government in meeting its targets unless we get some support there and so we --

Léonie Cooper AM: Perhaps you could write to me with the figures for how far we are short?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to. Yes, sure.

Léonie Cooper AM: That would be very great. Thank you very much.

Fire and Resilience

25 July 2021 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Breaking the Glass Ceiling at the LFB (Supplementary) 2021/3050

Nicholas Rogers AM

Nicholas Rogers AM: Clearly LGBT staff in the LFB are hurting now, so what is being done now to help existing members of staff? [...] If you could write to me, Mr Mayor, that would be good.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to, Chair.

09 September 2021 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Flooding in London
2021/3580

Hina Bokhari AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, we speak regularly to London Councils. Boroughs are the lead local flood authorities, and the Member is right in relation to the consequence of surface water running not into grass, when there is grass, but running into the Victorian sewers because of the increase in drives. I am more than happy to raise this with the London Councils, who I speak to on an almost daily basis, to look at what assessment they have done in relation to this issue. This is one of the issues we are looking into in relation to the work we are doing around the sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) and also some of the advice we are giving to councils about permeable paving. The good news is that in new developments, including developments we fund through Transport for London (TfL), the pavements are permeable. Old Street roundabout is a good example. I am more than happy to go away and speak to London Councils and come back to the Member about what they are doing. I am sure we have made progress in this area.

Hina Bokhari AM: Another issue is the lack of action around small rivers in London, such as the Hogsmill in Kingston and Beverley Brook, which is really impacting me at the moment in Merton. London has over 600 kilometres of small rivers and streams, many of which have been straightened and concreted over, which is reducing the natural flood defences. I am really concerned that we need to take some more ownership over this. As the Mayor of London, you have a unique responsibility to Londoners. Can you take the lead of tackling flooding from the London small rivers perspective?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): With the right powers and resources, both of which we lack. You are right that just cleaning some of the rivers up would increase the flow of the waters, which is really important. That is one of the issues I am raising with the Environment Agency. You will be aware that Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) fund the Environment Agency and councils to do some of this work. We are speaking to the Environment Agency. The next meeting we are having with the group of agencies responsible for this area is as early as next month. I can add that to the list of things to discuss to make sure we take up what we can do about the smaller rivers. The bigger rivers are being dealt with quite well, but you are right about the smaller rivers. If there is a blockage or a delay, the smaller rivers in particular can overflow into people's back gardens, into their homes, and so forth. A lack of maintenance can lead to real problems in the long term. I will take that up again and drop the Member a note in relation to what the Environment Agency says in relation to the progress, particularly in relation to small rivers and streams.

Hina Bokhari AM: You talked about risks that you are going to be looking into in terms of the meetings you have been having recently. There is also an issue with hotspots. Councils know that there are certain areas where there is poor landscaping, regular pooling and flooding. Again, we are crying out for some leadership and coordination in managing this London-wide information. Will you undertake an audit of flooding and poor drainage hotspots in London

with the London councils so that proper preventative action involving all the relevant agencies can happen?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That work has already happened. I do not want to reread my answer, but I will turn my answer into a letter so the Member can see the work that has already been undertaken.

Protecting Londoners from flooding due to intense rainfall 2021/3508

Zack Polanski AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You know this because of your work across London, but there is a large amount of digital poverty in relation to people's lack of access in terms of the wrong equipment, the lack of connection you talk about, 4G/5G, but also the lack of knowing how to use the equipment. That is one of the reasons the conversations with the Government are not simply about having an early warning system that is operative and works, but so that it is fully comprehensive. Again, Chair, the offer I made to his colleague about any expertise or advice he has got I am more than happy to listen to and to pass it on to Defra as well.

Zack Polanski AM: I really appreciate that. With that, would it be possible to share a copy of the letter sent to George Eustice so we know where you are at?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to share it on a private basis. What I do not want to do is make it public because it is a breach of courtesy. So as long as the Member agrees to keep it between us, I have got no issues in relation to sharing that if you would just respect that. It is just bad manners to make it public.

[...]

One or two pieces of good news arising out of the awful flash flooding is more people are aware. That statistic I referred to, the statistic of 200,000 homes in London, residential homes, being at risk of flooding should wake people up. Commercial premises as well. Again, the next Flood Awareness Week is coming round the corner. Again, I am happy for my team to liaise with the Member about whether there is anything that is missing from that week that we can be, not in a patronising way, educating Londoners about. I am more than happy to listen to him but also just to reassure you we are speaking to colleagues across the globe. I was in a meeting yesterday with mayors on C40 [Cities Climate Leadership Group] who suffer similar challenges, not just in the southern part of the planet but in northern cities like cities in Germany, New York and so forth as well.

Zack Polanski AM: I think that global picture is vital. On the subject of what is missing, there is often an education piece missed and you are right to say "not to be patronising", but there is often a map shared by Climate Week in [the United States of] America that conflates sea levels rising with intense rainfall. You know they are very different things. People often think because we have got a Thames barrier we do not need to worry about flooding. Would you

update those maps or at least create a new map that showed more what the specific risk is? You talk about those 200,000 homes, but I think a lot of those people do not know that that risk is specific to intense rainfall as opposed to the Thames. So a new map with new risks, I think, would be a really positive step.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me go and look into that, but the Member is spot on in relation to additional challenges posed by, for example, basement flats, some of the topography of our city, but flooding caused by intensive rain falling in short periods, sometimes a month's worth of rain in three hours. It is very different from coastal floods or river floods that historically we have been used to.

One of the points we are making to Defra is that its focus has been, understandably - I speak as somebody who experienced as a Minister the horrible floods in the Lakes in 2009 and the consequences of that - its focus has been on river flooding and coastal flooding, including the funding going to those areas and not in relation to urban flooding caused by heavy rainfall, the flash flooding we know about. That is one of the reasons why we are asking the Government for support in that area. In the context of us having no direct responsibility, but as the Mayor, surely I have got a responsibility and role to bring people together, whether it is the Environment Agency, councils, water companies, TfL and so forth, the emergency responders. Any assistance he can give in lobbying the Government is welcome, but let me look into the specific point raised.

Protecting Londoners from flooding due to intense rainfall (supplementary) [1]

2021/3508

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: Mr Mayor, I am glad that you mentioned the Thames area. Of course, there is a responsibility of the Environment Agency, which is a Government body and you are quite right to point out it does not come under you. I read somewhere and I will send you more details in case your office or not aware of it, although I am sure they are, that if major works are not done to the Thames barrier by 2050 and then surely then countering the threats to London's flood defences will be greatly diminished. I am not sure of the technicalities in preparation for this session, but can you tell us - if not now, in due course - the liaison between your office and the Environment Agency, what the discussions are and just let us know what is going on?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure.

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, it is an issue that we are concerned about and I will make sure that the Deputy Mayor [for Environment and Energy], Shirley Rodrigues, writes to the Member to give an update.

18 November 2021 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Extreme Weather Events and the London Fire Brigade (Supplementary)

[1]

2021/4627

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: The LFB does an excellent job of fire safety outreach with businesses and schools. Will you push for similar work for flooding prevention outreach?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, the LFB does, but I can ask it to send the Member details of what it does just to reassure her. If there are other ideas she has, I am more than happy to take them on board.

20 January 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

The Fire Risks Posed by E-Scooters

2022/0303

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: Will you work with the LFB to ensure a section on e-scooters is included on the electrical safety section of the website and that it is promoted through your channels?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I have not recently gone to the electrical section of the LFB website, but I will promise to do so, and she makes a really good idea. Why do I not ask my Deputy Mayor [for Fire and Resilience] to speak to Hina to see what other advice she has got? This is an area we could all work in together because it is about public education and you have got lots of constituents who respect what you say, and you can help us in relation to being a message carrier. Let us do that.

Hina Bokhari AM: Absolutely.

The Fire Risks Posed by E-Scooters

2022/0303

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: As the Mayor, will you be working together with boroughs, the LFB and housing associations on a publicity campaign to highlight the serious risks posed, emphasising not only the importance of fire safety but of safety around batteries?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, the Member raises a really important point and, as she was speaking, the potential opportunities just occurred to me to get into people's homes with information that may help keep them safer. They may have an e-scooter in their home and not realise the danger it poses. Chair, let me take that way. We are doing great work as the GLA group. Question: are we doing enough with the housing associations, the smaller ones and the bigger ones? We are doing good work with the councils but let me go away and just kick the tyres to see what more we can be doing. Why do I not also ask the Deputy Mayors Tom Copley [for Housing and Residential Development] and [Dr] Fiona Twycross [for Fire and Resilience] to touch base with the Member to see if there are any other ideas she has got about how we can reach those Londoners that we have historically found it difficult to reach? Some of them may own an e-scooter. It is about common-sense things that can be done to keep them and their families safe.

The Fire Risks Posed by E-Scooters

2022/0303

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: Will you commit to working with the LFB and boroughs to ensure that all employers in London are made aware of the fire risks posed by e-scooters and what they can do to mitigate those risks?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Well, again, Chair, it is another example. TfL and City Hall have done some good work, but I cannot give you a guarantee we have done that work with employers in the private sector and so forth. Again, I will make sure the questions that Hina has asked are circulated to my team to make sure that it gives the challenge we need to be asking these questions because you are right. Somebody may use an e-scooter to legally get to their place of work, but the issue is it may be a fire risk, so is the work taking the right steps? Similarly, Chair, why do I not ask Jules Pipe [CBE, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills] to make sure our planning is in the right place? We have done lots of good work to make sure there is cycling parking in new developments. Question: have we made sure we are raising the awareness about people who may park their e-scooter in a new development? Can I take that away, Chair, to just kick the tyres to make sure we have thought about it? This is a developing area, there are things we have probably not thought of and, again, this sort of challenge is good.

Hina Bokhari AM: I look forward to hearing from all the Deputy Mayors on this. Thank you so much.

21 July 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [1]
2022/2780 **Keith Prince AM**

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mayor. Can I echo your words in relation to the praise of our blue light services? I did actually write to the Fire Chief asking about a water bowser for Wennington [Fire Station]. As you know, Wennington nearly got involved with the fire; certainly they were involved in relation to the staff, but the actual fire encroached on to their land. Would you, Mr Mayor, just ask again if they would reconsider the provision of a water bowser for Wennington, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to do that, Chair. The fire impinged on homes which abut the fire station so, literally, the fire station was directly affected. Of course, I am more than happy to. I am seeing the [London Fire] Commissioner later on today and I will mention it to him orally but I will drop him a note as well so it is in writing.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Health

24 June 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Prioritising Early Years Programmes

2021/2321

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Early years is clearly a priority, then. You have touched on some of the areas that are most pertinent to your mayoralty. Could you provide some specific KPIs and targets that you expect to achieve in those areas?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy for the relevant committee to look at what measures they would like us to have measured. I am quite clear in relation to this area of work. I am really proud that we are investing more in this area than the previous Mayor did in his last term, but it is not unreasonable to want to see what value that investment leads to. Susan Hall [AM] chairs the Budget and Performance Committee, but I am more than happy to work with the Assembly to make sure we have the right KPIs in place.

Emma Best AM: Specifically, for example, have you set yourself a target for the percentage decrease you would like to see there in childhood obesity?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, we have. The Taskforce has set targets, which I can send to the Member.

Emma Best AM: Do you know what targets that you are aiming for?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, that answer is not in this question. If you ask an open question, it is difficult to get a specific answer. If you ask a specific question, I can give you a specific answer. I can write to you in relation to the target the Childhood Obesity Taskforce set in 2017. I do not have it in this lever-arch file.

15 July 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Holiday Hunger
2021/3020

Marina Ahmed AM

Marina Ahmed AM: Thank you. The National Food Strategy was published this morning and three of the recommendations are things that you have been calling for from the Government: to extend the eligibility of free school meals, to fund the HAF programme for the next three years and to expand the Healthy Start Screen.

Will you now write to the Government and urge it to take on board these recommendations sooner rather than later? As we know, hungry children cannot wait for action.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have only seen the media reports of the report. I have had no chance to read it yet. It does look interesting and we will be looking at it in detail and lobbying the Government to implement the report.

Gaps in Mental Health Work
2021/2845

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): I recently met with the Mental Health Foundation, which highlighted that we are not a signatory to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health. Will you commit to signing up to that, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am happy to go and look at that. I am not sure. Can I go and look at what the concordat is and come back to the Member?

16 December 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [2]
2022/0001 **Caroline Russell AM**

Caroline Russell AM: Getting as many Londoners to feel confident to take up their vaccine as possible is incredibly important. The boosters, however, are not the whole picture, because once you have had your booster - I had mine last weekend - it is not going to kick in for another couple of weeks in terms of protecting me. In terms of measures to prevent spread of the virus and to keep everyone safe, you have got a role in public health messaging around mask-wearing on the Tube, on buses, and you have been doing a lot on that. We know that coronavirus is airborne; we know we need to be in well-ventilated spaces; and we know we need to be very mindful of mixing with people indoors. Will you widen your public health messaging on TfL to include the importance of keeping the windows open on buses and trains where that is possible? I know you have done some fixes on buses to make that work, but this is a question about the messaging.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to look into the messaging to see if we can improve that, and those sorts of ideas are really welcome. Just to remind colleagues - and Assembly Member Russell knows this - that because of the ideas we received last summer, the windows are now permanently open. Clearly, there are issues with temperature, but I think people would prefer to be a bit cold and with good ventilation rather than the alternative. The windows in between Tube cabins are also open. Again, I will see what else we need to do to amplify messaging.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [3]
2022/0001 **Dr Onkar Sahota AM**

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Finally, Mr Mayor, it will be the NHS staff who will be ramping up the vaccination rates, who will be giving up their Christmases and who will be working on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. These are the very people who we clapped for on Thursday evenings last year [2020]. Would you go on the record to thank them for their hard work? Also, I will be working over Christmastime, delivering vaccination boosters. Would you join me in my constituency in one of the vaccination centres?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would love to. I am going to another part of London this weekend, but I am sure we can arrange to come to your community.

Winter Pressures (Supplementary) [3]

2021/5047

Krupesh Hirani AM

Krupesh Hirani AM: I am mindful of time so I would be grateful if you can provide the next answer in written form. It is just asking for an update on when you will be announcing your Health Skills Hub as part of your Academies Programme to attract the next generation of talent into London's NHS and social care workforce.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to write to the Member with the answer to that question.

24 February 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

GLA:Mayor Component Budget

Emma Best AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor. You will obviously be as aware as I am, and other Assembly Members are, about the effects the pandemic has had on Londoners' mental health. We expect to see an 11% increase in those accessing services in London and that will be 2 million Londoners in total we would expect over the next months and years to be accessing mental health services.

In the 2022-23 plan you initially allocated £1.5 million into the mental health budget. That has now been reallocated so that there is a GLA input of £700,000 and so that has been halved. I understand that has been replaced mainly by external funding. I just wanted some reassurance about why this money has been reallocated, what the reasoning behind that is and how you are making sure we prioritise Londoners' mental health.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank you for that question on the issue and the way you raised it. One of the reasons why I have spoken about the consequences of the pandemic on my mental health is to get rid of the stigma. I know some Members of this Assembly have been critical of me in relation to me talking about it, but it is important to show leadership in this area. That is one of the reasons why I have talked about this.

The money we spend on mental health is not just us spending money on mental health. It is also the NHS, local authorities, the private sector and so forth. We have a [London] Health Inequalities Strategy, which deals with a number of issues. One of the things we have managed to do as a consequence of the working on the London Recovery Board and also the relationship built with the NHS is to leverage in money from the NHS on this important area. I want to reassure you that the monies that have been spent on this are not just the monies from City Hall, the great work we are doing with councils on Thrive London, the great work we are doing at City Hall in relation to mental health first aid training and in relation to good work practices and so forth, but this is also in relation to leveraging in not just the goodwill but monies from the private sector, local authorities and the NHS. Indeed, we now have - this has never happened before - the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) talking openly about the importance of this stuff. Do not also underestimate the amount of work taking place within those GLA functional bodies on this issue.

I am more than happy to give a more detailed response in writing to the Member to reassure her because it really is important that she is reassured that we are doing everything we can. We are always happy to have new ideas. You may have ideas about what more we can do, myth-busting and so forth. Some of it does not cost much money. Some of it is just comms. I am more than happy to listen to ideas you have.

David Bellamy (Mayor's Chief of Staff): There was a reallocation within the different health budgets within the GLA:Mayor budget and so some money has moved from one of the missions towards another and towards the foundation. My understanding is that the total money there has not changed at all.

Also, Chair, while I have the microphone, to answer Assembly Member Bailey's question, London's low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector is worth £40 billion in sales and employs nearly 250,000 people.

Emma Best AM: Thank you. I would appreciate perhaps after this meeting some more details on the reasoning behind the reallocation and what that looks to achieve, but we can take that offline.

19 May 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Neurodiversity in London [1]

2022/1716

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Neurodiversity in Business launched in Parliament in March [2022] with over 100 organisations committed to building neuro-inclusive workplaces, including most of London’s largest corporates. Will you, Mr Mayor, meet with this forum and agree how London can lead the world to improve acceptance of neurodiversity?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would love to. Thank you for raising the points the way you raised them, Assembly Member Boff. I am more than happy to. Your figures are stark; in fact, my figures are even starker than yours, I had one in five.

Andrew Boff AM: I am a Conservative.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am grateful to you for raising those points, Andrew. I am more than happy to not just meet with the group but I would also, if you have the time, suggest that Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard [Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice], who has done lots of work on this -- we are launching very soon the Structural Inequalities Action Plan and any advice you have would be appreciated. Just to reassure you though, we do meet the specialist groups both in London and across the country. I am more than happy to meet Neurodiversity in Business for the obvious reasons you have suggested. It is a no-brainer. I also love your point about London being a world leader. I think we should be a world leader in this area, particularly as we have Londoners with huge potential that is not being tapped.

Neurodiversity in London [2]

2022/1716

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: That told me what you are doing but it did not talk about the strategy. What strategy is there? This was a specific request of the Assembly. The reason, as an Assembly, we requested that there be a specific strategy on neurodiversity, not just lumped in with other conditions, is that we feel it could be lost amongst the other conditions. Where is the strategy? Are you going to have an autism strategy or a neurodiversity strategy?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think the concern - again, this is one of the reasons I am more than happy for you to meet with Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard - is that neurodiversity is a small part of the social model of disabilities we are seeking to address, addressing physical, cognitive and sensory impairments that Londoners have. I think the concern was that a narrow strategy just on neurodiversity would not do justice to all the other social models of disability. Again, once you have had a chance to see the Action Plan, which is the strategy, if you like, and what it means in implementation, if you are still unhappy, again, I am more than happy -- it is not a closed door, just to reassure you. I am more than happy, if you think there are more things that can be added to the strategy, to discuss those with you. I think you will welcome the Action Plan.

Andrew Boff AM: When will we see that Action Plan?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In typical civil service speak, very soon. Can I get back to you today to give you privately the exact date? You will appreciate that dates change but I will give you privately the date I have been told. My briefing says “shortly”, “very soon”.

Andrew Boff AM: OK. Thank you.

Assessing Mayoral Policies 2022/1599

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. A vital part of assessing the effectiveness of policy is assessing its success against the original aims. If we take the TfL junk food ban, for example, this policy when released stated that adverts for products that would not be permitted within the network would be chocolate and cheeseburgers, amongst other items. Much like the fast food wrappers that still litter the underground, you can still see these adverts across the network. How can you consider this policy effective when it has not done what it set out to do, which is remove these adverts from our network?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The ban on advertising foods high in fats, sugar and salt has been an unparalleled success. I will make sure my office sends to the Member later on today the independent evidence which confirms what a success it has been. We could not talk about this much during the pre-election period, but I will make sure that Members of the Assembly know what an unparalleled success it was.

[...]

Emma Best AM: The adverts were supposed to be gone, but they are still there.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a different question. The question is the effectiveness of the ban. The ban has been effective. The issue is: are there adverts up there that should not be up there? That is a different point. I am more than happy to look at adverts that should not be on the TfL estate that are on the TfL estate. If, for example, without naming the product, those two particular products are high in fats, sugar and salt, they should not be up there. I will make sure, Chair, that TfL are made aware of those two adverts. If there are any other adverts you are aware of --

Emma Best AM: Hundreds.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let us know where they are, and I will pass them on to the team at TfL to see whether they should be up there. If they should not be, they should be taken down.

Emma Best AM: OK.

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy to take representations from the Conservatives on this issue. I will ask my staff to look at those recommendations and even suggest that we send them to the Prime Minister, who could do with listening to Conservative Members in the Assembly.

Ongoing coronavirus in London

2022/1300

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Right now London is facing a new crisis, the cost of living crisis. If you wanted to buy a lateral flow test you can get them for about £2 a test at pharmacies but this is expensive for people who want to be responsible and test regularly, for people who are not covered by free tests. If someone has a chronic condition or lives with someone who does, they should not be financially penalised just because they are trying to take care of their relative. I wonder if there is a new procurement role for the SCG in making sure that affordable lateral flow tests are available to Londoners who need them but cannot afford to pay that £2 for each test. I wondered if you see any role for the SCG in working with the boroughs, trying to make more affordable tests available so that people can be responsible?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The role of the SCG is strategic control from the centre but the suggestion, I think, from the Member is a sensible one: use procurement power to try to reduce the cost. The councils know who these families are who do not quite satisfy the safety net that the general practitioners (GPs) can provide. Can I take that away, Chair, in relation to what we could do, thinking together about not just the contacts we have with the communities, those who may miss out, but also procurement power? Without making promises, I think it is a cracking idea. I am more than happy to keep the Member updated with progress made in conversations with colleagues in the SCG.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, that is hugely appreciated, and I look forward to continuing to discuss that going forwards.

Trans and Gender-Diverse Access to Healthcare

2022/1597

Andrew Boff AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I want to thank the Health Committee for their inquiry earlier this year into access to general healthcare for the trans and gender-diverse community. The report recommendations raised several important issues about NHS data collection, highlighting actions the NHS could be taking to improve awareness of the needs of this group across the whole of the NHS, including through training for GPs and other staff.

Most of the recommendations contained within the report are aimed at the NHS and I know that the Health Committee has followed these up directly. In my response to the Health Committee of 31 March [2022] I agreed to write to NHS Digital regarding data collection.

I have done this, and I await their reply, which I will share with the Health Committee when I receive it.

13 October 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Improving London’s Crumbling Hospital Infrastructure
2022/3745 **Krupesh Hirani AM**

Krupesh Hirani AM: For the new Epsom and St Helier Hospital project in Sutton, each year of delay adds between £20 million to £30 million to costs of the scheme and for Whipps Cross [Hospital] that figure is between £50 million and £100 million, probably even more now given what we are seeing with inflation. The Government’s inertia is not only putting patient care and safety at risk but also costing the taxpayer hundreds of millions of pounds. It is not surprising that the National Audit Office (NAO) is looking into this. Will you be sending evidence in to its investigation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Once the NAO has published its scope of reference for the review, I will look into that and then I will respond accordingly. What we do is we normally consult with local councils, Members of Parliament (MPs) and practitioners but, yes, subject to what the review scope is I will be responding.

Krupesh Hirani AM: Finally, will you join me in writing to the new Prime Minister to make sure that we can get those projects moving in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. I have already written to the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on a range of issues which include improving London’s hospital infrastructure, and I will let the Assembly know when I receive a response to that letter.

Krupesh Hirani AM: Thank you.

Housing

27 May 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Building Safety on Public Land

Question Number: 2021/1400

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: Excellent. Finally, over two months ago, several buildings applied for the Waking Watch Relief Fund, which is administered by the GLA under the Mayor of London, but have heard nothing back. This is unacceptable. Will you take responsibility and speed up the Waking Watch Relief Fund process right away?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): All the rules that we use are rules from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). We administer the funds from MHCLG. If there are any particular issues with delay, of course we are happy to look into those.

It is worth reminding you and colleagues that the rules are not written by us. We are, if you like, the middle third party, making sure the money is facilitated. I am more than happy, though, to look into any individual cases. Chair, I am sure that new Members will have explained how to reach my office to make sure we can expedite anything we can do.

Supporting London's Leaseholders

Question Number: 2021/1629

Anne Clarke AM

Anne Clarke AM: Mr Mayor, at the October 2020 Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREPE) Committee meeting, Ritu Saha, a founder of the UK Cladding Action Group, asked for support from your office to look at inconsistencies around waking watches and buildings in London. Will you commit to investigate these issues further on behalf of Londoners?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. Tom Copley, the Deputy Mayor, has done lots of work on this. There are a number of issues here, which need looking into. You mentioned the inconsistencies. There are the remediation works, there are waking watches, there are inconsistencies in relation to safety measures. You will be aware of some of the stuff that the National Fire Chiefs Council has said. I am more than happy, either myself or Tom, to do further work in relation to this. A lot of this is outside our powers and our purviews, but we are trying to help groups and individuals who have nobody else to turn to. Therefore, we are going outside of our powers to try to help them because that is one of the roles we can play is to support them where possible, not just being the advocate for these leaseholders, but trying to assist in relation to the inconsistencies you refer to.

09 September 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Refugee Housing

Question Number: 2021/3818

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: How many Afghans do you believe we are going to have to help in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Really good question. Even those who have come to other parts of the country - a lot of flights arrived in Birmingham and Manchester - will, over time, come to London for reasons you can understand. At the moment, our estimate - and it is a guesstimate - is 9,000 Afghans in the United Kingdom (UK); of those, about 3,500 in London. Do not forget, Assembly Member Devenish, that if somebody has accommodation even for a year in another part of the country, they may decide after that year to come to London; they either have members of their family here, jobs, the language. The really good news is that the Government has confirmed they have a right to work, which is fantastic, because many have skills they can give. Also they get indefinite leave to remain, which really helps.

Tony Devenish AM: Could I ask you to write to us in more detail when you have more of the facts in terms of timescales please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am more than happy to. Also, just to say we are taking part in what is called a "task and finish group" chaired by the Chief Executive of a council. We are working really closely with councils. Not just the Home Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), but also Health and Social Security as well. I am more than happy, Chair, to give an update, and even write on a monthly basis with an update, because things will change in relation to our response to the Afghans.

14 October 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Rent Controls Commission

Question Number: 2021/4280

Sem Moema AM

Sem Moema AM: As part of that commission, I have been talking to various people across the capital, including the New Economics Foundation and a group of independent barristers and lawyers, who have looked at the economic and the legal modelling theoretically around what a rent control specifically for London might look like. I would really like to have a conversation with you or the Deputy Mayor [for Housing and Residential Development] at a point when that commission is established to perhaps add their voices to some of that modelling, to look at the positives and negatives and how we can overcome some of those concerns that landlords have as well. Finally, North East - Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest - would be really happy to be part of any pilots as and when they are established, and we will really be keeping a very close watching brief.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, thank you very much. The New Economics Foundation is a think-tank we have worked with in relation to some of our plans and the blueprint I referred to as well. By the way, in relation to rent controls, we already have them with council house building. Council house building is a form of rent controls. They build the homes, and the rents are controlled and there is security of tenure. London is unique and so I would not want to copy what another city does and bring it here. We kind of know what is working and not working in other parts of the globe as well. I am more than happy always to set up meetings for any Deputy Mayor to meet with Assembly Members. I am sure Tom [Copley] will really look forward to hearing the ideas that you and colleagues have from the legal profession, whom I also hold in high esteem, and the New Economics [Foundation] think-tank as well. Let us do that.

Sem Moema AM: OK, thank you.

Getting London Moving

2021/3890

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman): While we are on good terms, Mr Mayor, very quickly, you very kindly before the election agreed to meet with the Association of Relocation Professionals, not just talking about getting London moving but getting people to move to London. You agreed to meet with them. Would you just reaffirm that you are happy to meet with that organisation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely, Chair.

16 December 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Housing Delivery (Supplementary) [3]

2021/5100

Emma Best AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The second big point is in relation to the planning reforms required. [The Rt Hon Sir] Oliver Letwin [former MP] was asked by [the Rt Hon] Philip Hammond, a previous Chancellor [of the Exchequer] to do some work in relation to why there are 200,000 homes being granted permission in London to be built that have not been built. One of the things that Oliver Letwin concluded was we needed a diversity of houses and homes being provided in London, yes, market value homes and, yes, even some luxury homes, but also genuinely affordable homes and that can only be funded with help from the Government. That is the report that was done.

Chair, I am more than happy to send a copy of the report to the Member of the Assembly who has not read this, which I find astonishing as somebody who claims to be concerned about the needs of our great city, but I will make sure that is sent to the Member so that she can see what the experts said about the needs of our city from the Government.

Housing Delivery (Supplementary) [5]

2021/5100

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Mr Mayor, if it is all going so well in housing delivery, why is Lord Bob Kerslake reviewing your lack of delivery?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am more than happy to send to the Member, who is bellowing, the terms of reference from City Hall to Bob Kerslake, which is to make sure that no stone is left unturned to try to maximise delivery across our city.

23 June 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Oral Update to the Mayor’s Report (Supplementary) [3]
2022/2260 **Andrew Boff AM**

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You will be aware there is an overlap in relation to the two deals we had with the Communities Department. The first deal was 2016 to 2023, the second was 2021 to 2026. Some of those have started but there is an overlap, and the department understood the overlap between --

Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair): Therefore, you have spent some of that £4 billion, the most recent £4 billion allocation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are in negotiations all the time. I am more than happy to send you a note in relation to some of that. What some of the partners wanted to do was to move some of the starts we had in the 2016 to 2023 period to 2021 to 2026. I am therefore more than happy to do a note in relation to that. What we do not want to do is double-count. Therefore we have been very careful to make sure we do not double-count in 2021 to 2026 those homes begun between 2016 and 2023. However, there was always expected from the Government to be a two-year period where there was some overlap. I am more than happy to do a note in relation to that.

Housing and Planning

13 October 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Continuing support for the Community Led Housing Hub 2022/3637 Siân Berry AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Understood. Firstly, can I place on record my thanks? Tom [Copley] and I are grateful to your assiduous work with us on this issue.

We are worried, as you are, indeed. What we said to the Government is that they set an objective of between 5% and 10% of the 2021-2026 Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) money to be used for this community-led housing, but it is only capital, as you said. You will know that it is quite resource-intensive in relation to enabling, empowering and so forth. We are trying to be innovative where we can, but I am not going to pretend that we have the answer yet. I am more than happy for you to sit down with Tom to discuss innovative ideas.

Without that revenue support, this capital money will not be able to be used, which is heart-breaking, bearing in mind the lobbying we have done to get where we are. We are in the ideas business. Chair, if I could suggest that we set up a meeting? If we can make it work, we want to make it work.

Siân Berry AM: OK. That is useful. We can use some capital money also as one-off revenue just to get capital stuff over the line but we can discuss that in more detail.

[...]

Siân Berry AM: The Right to Buy Back Fund is great, and it has done over 1,500 homes but it is very specifically just for councils at the moment. If you were to extend that to community-led housing projects and properly advertise that to them, you could genuinely make a difference to bringing forward more of this model of housing.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It took literally hours and hours - I am sure Tom [Copley] would say months and months - of negotiating with the Government to persuade them in relation to flexibility. I am more than happy in the meeting that the [Assembly] Member has with Tom to discuss other ideas she has. We have to be pragmatic and dexterous and not be stuck in inflexibility. It has to be persuading the Government about some of those AHP rules and stuff. Chair, I am more than happy for that to be one of the issues that the Member discusses with Tom Copley.

Siân Berry AM: Excellent.

Planning

24 June 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Development in London 2021/2325

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Just to finish up, really, on this, you know the Planning and Regeneration Committee advised that you create a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for tall buildings. Will you commit to doing that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In relation to an SPG for tall buildings?

Emma Best AM: Absolutely.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not have the answer to that. Can I write to you on that one? I am not sure what we have said about tall buildings going forward because the London Plan was finalised only two or three months ago. What we are asking local councils to do is to have their own policies. There is a good place in there for tall buildings. I can write back, Chair, with your permission, to the Member, about that.

New community plans for London small sites

2021/2301

Siân Berry AM

Siân Berry AM: If I can clarify a bit more maybe, I am aware of two boroughs whose small sites estimates proved more robust as they did full surveys of their borough and their land, but even these were very top-down exercises, and I worry that we are starting to see that already with some of the small sites coming forwards. For example, residents in Kilburn Square were quite shocked when Brent Council started to build on their green space, cutting down mature trees. Southwark Council are planning to build on a football pitch in Bermondsey. Did they ask the local community before putting forward plans for this small site? No, they did not. Even your TfL grey sites, the car parks, are getting pushback from local people.

You and I have a good track record of constructive taking up of new ideas, for which I give you credit, and the project I would most like you to take up from my Manifesto is the idea of a London-wide People's Land Commission, something that is really a mission for the whole city, involving people in bottom-up small site identification. Now, it is MQT so I do not have time for the full pitch, but I think if I had a meeting with you, I could convince you this would solve a lot of your problems. Can I get a slot to talk to you about this specifically?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Always happy, Chair, to talk to Assembly Member Berry.

Siân Berry AM: I will very much look forward to that meeting. The last time the two of us had a meeting was in 2019 so I think it is time we talked again, and I think I could convince you of this.

15 July 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Better High Streets for All
2021/3261

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Will you write to the DCMS asking it to reverse the aim to permit guidance so that local authorities have more leeway and flexibility in rejecting applications that are not in the best interests of the local community?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. The Co-chair of the London Recovery Board with me is the Chair of London Councils. Why do I not speak to her about what we can do together? If that is the view of London Councils as well, that would really help our response. I am more than happy, Chair, to speak to the Chair of London Councils to see if we can do a joint approach to the Government.

09 September 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Neighbourhood Plans
2021/3480

Sakina Sheikh AM

Sakina Sheikh AM: Thank you very much for that. I like the transition of consumers to citizens to active citizens, so I look forward to working with you on developing that further.

I just want to move us into the statement of community involvement as an idea. Recently, I have had the pleasure of meeting community campaigning groups, working on issues and planning such as Neighbourhood Planners London and Just Space as well as others. They have raised with me a desire to see the GLA produce a statement of community involvement and I know that the Centre for London also called for that at the beginning of this year. Is this something that you are willing to do, and what would your timeline look like in terms of considering it?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I know the Member has got a lot of experience with community engagement. I would like to ask my officers in the team who are doing this work to meet with her to hear from her about the ideas she has heard from her constituents about what more we can do, because I genuinely think if we get this right, there are other areas of policy where we can make a big difference. I will arrange for a meeting so she can advise us what more we can be doing.

Sakina Sheikh AM: I look forward to that and I will certainly take you up on that kind offer.

On the note of meetings, my final follow-up is on whether you would consider convening a meeting for all neighbourhood planners across London so that they could come and meet and share ideas and learn from one another as well?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am always keen not to trespass in other areas of responsibility that are not mine, but what I am more than happy to do is to work with London Councils, which is responsible for this, to see what more it can do. I will get my team to raise this with London Councils, addressing what is at the core of the suggestion, which is trying to make sure there is best practice and convening those who are doing this to make sure best practice is shared, but also to avoid any deficiencies being replicated to rectify those.

24 March 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

London Plan Guidance Impact
2022/1150

Sakina Sheikh AM

Sakina Sheikh AM: The specific question to you is would you consider making easy-read versions and small supplementary videos so more people can engage with the planning system and specifically respond to your LPG consultations?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am more than happy to listen to your excellent ideas about making this more user-friendly to engage more people. I want Londoners not to just be consumers and not just citizens but active citizens and any advice you have got, I will ask my office to arrange to meet with you about ideas you have got. We have to make it as accessible as possible. The more we can energise Londoners to get engaged in this area, the more pressure there is from them, we can try to have world-leading policies. I will ask my office to go away and meet with you to discuss any ideas you have got.

Sakina Sheikh AM: Thank you, I look forward to that meeting.

Education and Youth

14 October 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Children's education funding
2021/4105

Marina Ahmad AM

Marina Ahmad AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. On the subject of education, this year reports from the National Audit Office and the Institute for Fiscal Studies found that despite the Government's pledge to level up education, its funding formula has led to the balance of cash moving away from more deprived schools and in fact they have seen the biggest funding cut in 40 years. Will you write to the new Education Secretary to highlight these issues and the fact that inadequate support is now being provided to the most deprived children through the Education Recovery Fund, and ask how this issue will now be taken forward so that children can catch up with their education following the disruption of the pandemic?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank the Assembly Member for raising this really important issue. The good news is the new Education Secretary is a good, competent, able politician. I have huge regard for him. He did a brilliant job as the Vaccines Minister and also, he used to be a London councillor and so he understands how important this issue is. I am hoping to meet with him soon and I will make sure I raise the points you have raised when I meet with him because he understands the importance of this helping hand, particularly at early years. I will make the point that the pandemic, as you said and as the evidence suggests, has made things worse. We need to make sure we do not undo the progress made over the last 20 years in London.

21 July 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Holiday hunger (Supplementary) [1]

2022/2347

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Thank you, Chair. This year London will receive £33 million from the Government's Holiday, Activity and Food Programme. That equates to 16.5% of the total spend for the UK and so it is very good news for London. The holiday provision, as I am sure you know, is for children aged from reception to year 11 who are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals.

Will you commit this summer to going out and visiting one of those programmes at one of those clubs delivering that across London to see how that programme is being rolled out and to visit the hard-working people who are delivering it on the front line?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy - and if I cannot, one of my Deputy Mayors will - to visit that particular scheme.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

18 November 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Manifesto Commitments (Supplementary) [6] 2021/4573

Emma Best AM

Emma Best AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I was extremely patient there to listen to that answer because the first thing you said was that I did not have the right figures and so perhaps I can keep you abreast of those.

When you took office in 2016, the gender pay gap was at 16.15% and, after rising steadily over your mayoralty, it has come back down slightly but is 16.19%. It still is higher than when you took office. To contrast that with the UK, when you took office in the UK the gender pay gap was 18.2% and it is now 15.39%. It is coming down UK-wide. In London it is going up.

The ethnicity pay gap when you took office was 27%. It is now 28.2%. If you compare that with the UK, it was 3.6% when you took office, and it is now 1.6%. It has gone down drastically across the UK. Only in London is it going up.

I will ask you again and just for the final time. Is that a source of regret for you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, as I said, I do not recognise those figures. I am more than happy to share with the Member the figures that we have for the GLA and for the GLA functional bodies and the figures we have across London and across the country.

21 July 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

**Skills and Employment Opportunities for Disabled Londoners
(Supplementary) [1]**

2022/2465

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, as you know, Neurodiversity in Business is an organisation that is actively looking to address the employment prospects of autistic and other neurodiverse Londoners. Back in May [2022] I asked you to meet them, and you expressed some enthusiasm to do so. They have yet to hear from your office and I wonder when that will be rectified.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, let me follow that up. I do apologise, through you, to them. Can I follow that up and get back to you and them today to let you know when we are going to meet? Even if it is not soon, we need a date in the diary today. Is that OK?

Andrew Boff AM: That is. Thank you.

Climate justice for Londoners (Supplementary) [1]

2022/2542

Leonie Cooper AM

Léonie Cooper AM: Thank you very much. It is just on the issue about supporting campaign groups in London. I feel that we ran out of time when Assembly Member Best was raising a really important issue earlier on. I have had another look at her original question, and it just says, "How can we work together?" It does not mention a specific group. I just wondered if perhaps Assembly Member Best and I could be in contact with your staff so that we could give some consideration as to whether or not that is a campaign that we could consider --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure.

GLA Business and Administration

16 December 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Winter Pressures (Supplementary) [1]

2021/5047

Susan Hall AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It was at the Assembly's request that today's MQT is taking place in Union Street, rather than the new City Hall. Accordingly, the new City Hall will be phased in from Tuesday, 4 January [2022] and the GLA will be operating fully from there by Monday, 17 January [2022].

In relation to the savings made, the GLA group is on course to make a saving of at least £61 million over the next five years as a result of the relocation of City Hall, as predicted. The core GLA will make savings of £47 million over five years, also as predicted. We have moved out of our former City Hall on time in line with our contractual obligations and will start saving money from as early as Christmas Eve [2021]. These savings will be used to help protect vital frontline services, including in policing, the London Fire Brigade and our transport network. They will also enable us to invest further in London's economic recovery from the pandemic.

It is worth also pointing out, Chair, that the new City Hall is a flagship, sustainable building with Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) Outstanding and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification, which are the highest available standards of sustainable construction. The refurbishment and the fitout to accommodate our arrival is on track to achieve its own BREEAM Outstanding certification. The building has arrays of solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal supply renewable energy and hot water, and these have been upgraded to ensure continued excellent sustainability performance from our new City Hall.

Susan Hall AM: Thank you. Can you commit to sending me a breakdown, a complete breakdown, of how you have worked out that figure? I do not recognise it. The reason I am asking whether we are going to be in is because since 25 October [2021], I have been asking our Chief Officer for a construction timetable or a building schedule, which none of us has been able to see to see whether it is on track. Can you commit to sending me a breakdown of how you worked those savings out?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Once we have moved into the new City Hall and final payments have been made to contractors, we will publish the one-off costs of the move against budget and update on the overall position. I know the Chief Officer has been invited to the March [2022] meeting of the [GLA] Oversight Committee to discuss the move in detail. This will be a good time to review not only the costs, but the challenges of this project, and the achievements of the relocation team in overcoming them.

21 July 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Biggest Regret (Supplementary) [3]

2022/2662

Nick Rogers AM

Nick Rogers AM: Mr Mayor, talking of regrets, do you regret the way that too many Londoners have been let down by your Solar Together London scheme?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I do. Can I thank you for raising this offline as well? I have looked at, when you raised it last time, the issue because you had received, I think, two complaints. I had almost 100 people contact me in relation to the issue. It is not on, in relation to a number of things, but we are looking into this. There is an explanation. I do not want to excuse the poor service that has been received by too many Londoners. The fact that 100 contacted me gives you an idea. That is not normal.

We are looking into what went wrong. We have met with both the company doing the installations and its partner. We think we understand what the issues are. It is no consolation to your constituents and Londoners. As a result of supply issues, we are seeing this across different places in the country where these have been installed. I am happy to write to you to reassure you that we think we have understood the problem and we think we can ameliorate some of the issues. It is not going to be perfect yet until we get more supply.

I want to thank him, Chair. Offline the Member raised it with me. I looked into it and there are problems. We think we know what they are, and we think we have a way forward. I can write to you to save you time if you want.

Nick Rogers AM: Thank you. Writing to me would be appreciated.

Biggest Regret (Supplementary) [4]

2022/2662

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Perhaps, to cut this short rather than talking across details, if you could write to me and give me an assurance that every single home that has been built under your Affordable Housing Programme over the past six years complies with your current standards for energy efficiency.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I understand. OK. Yes, if I write to you, it might be easier.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you very much, sir. Thank you.

Business and Economy

16 December 2021 – London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Universal Basic Income
2021/4809

Zack Polanski AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The problem with any pilot in London is we need the money to do so, and that is one of the reasons why we are sharing our research with the Government. I am more than happy for London to be used as a pilot in relation to the exploration of a UBI. You will be aware of the work done in Wales, I am sure, in relation to the schemes they had in place, and you will also be aware of some of the good work around universal basic services. I am all for innovation. One of the things you will know is that we will need support from the Government to do any of this stuff. I am more than happy to get my officers to speak with you about the work we are doing. I am hoping the research unlocks some of these conversations in the Government because we should be open-minded. You will be aware of the work in Finland as well. I am more than happy to speak to you about what we can do, but the obstacle is going to be getting support from the Government.

Zack Polanski AM: I really appreciate that, Mr Mayor. Guy, who I was speaking about, has been advising [the Rt Hon] Mark Drakeford [MS, First Minister of Wales] for that Welsh pilot with the Labour Government there.

In 2017, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) suspended its current system to allow a UBI pilot in a city in the UK, so we know that this can happen. Are you doing any work to engage with it or lobby for it to make a shift so that you can do a UBI in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): To be fair, this work began in 2010 when [the Rt Hon Sir] Iain Duncan Smith [MP] was first made the Secretary of State. It took seven years to get to 2017.

I am not saying never, just because there are challenges and obstacles. What I am saying is we have to be cognisant of the consequences of going to such a system. The point I was making in my answer was we have shown that targeted support - Universal Credit and the £20 uplift being a good example now - can lead to really good results that are cheaper than a UBI.

I am not saying no to a UBI. What I am saying is that actually there are things we can be doing now, and you have agreed with that, which I really appreciate. We can do work on this. We are happy to. What I do not want to have, though, is officers with limited bandwidth spending lots of time doing work that will be rejected by the Government. That is my big concern. I have to be pragmatic.

Zack Polanski AM: Understood. With 10 seconds left, could I just ask you - I would really appreciate your meeting with your team on this - could I bring Guy Standing to that meeting so that we could have an expert in the room?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. That is a good example, by the way, of often ideas from the Green Party being well received by us and not least a good example of cross-party working that we should be doing in the interests of our city.

21 July 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Cost of Living Support Hub
2022/2344

Hina Bokhari AM

Hina Bokhari AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. In June [2022] the London Assembly passed a Cost of Living Emergency motion to highlight the needed support for our most vulnerable Londoners and to make sure it is most effective. Now, when I spoke to The Trussell Trust, which I know is one of the groups that you have been consulting this week, they welcomed the Cost of Living Hub but they did urge that we must go further to end the postcode lottery in the provision of local support across London. You have also mentioned that you are going to be doing some reviewing. Will that particular area be reviewed to make sure that you are helping the most vulnerable, and are unique page views enough to evaluate the success of Cost of Living Hub?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me be frank: a Cost of Living Hub is not going to alleviate the struggles families are facing across our city. I mentioned in my answer some of the changes required from central Government. The postcode lottery is partly caused by some councils, frankly speaking, being better than others, and by some councils having more deprived communities and bigger challenges. Also, some of the community services available in addition to services from the council are better in some parts of London than others, for a variety of historical reasons.

I accept that simply checking the numbers of people going to a page will not be enough for us to assess the success or otherwise. There are a number of other things we are doing, as I said in my answer. I am more than happy to write to the Member in relation to some of the additional things we are doing, and I am always keen to hear from Members with their own experiences from the communities they speak to about some of the things we can be doing, with the limited resources we have, to help the families I know she cares about.

Hina Bokhari AM: I look forward to that written answer.

20 January 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Spy-free shopping

2022/0003

Zack Polanski AM

Zack Polanski AM: Would you agree with me, at the very least, that these supermarkets need to be transparent about the recording and use of data?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have not seen the data so I cannot comment on whether that is a reasonable request or not, but we all want Assembly Member Polanski to be able to buy his loaf of bread and not worry about his privacy being infringed. I would remind him, though, that there is lots of closed-circuit television (CCTV) and if we were speaking 20 or 30 years ago, he would not unreasonably be asking questions about transparency on CCTV. It is because of this challenge we have had improvements made around CCTV, and that is why he is so right to ask these questions, to get us the reassurance we need around transparency, what happens to the data, us being informed that it is being used, and so forth.

That is why it is important for people with an interest in this area, like Assembly Member Polanski, to continue to challenge those in the private sector and those in Government. I want to be an ally. I am more than happy for you to send me the letter. I can help in relation to getting the information because all the Member is asking for is transparency, all he is asking for is to know whether somebody who he does business with is using this technology, and that is not an unreasonable request. Why do we not speak offline about sharing your letter? We can see what we can do to get what I think is not an unreasonable question asked to people who we do custom with.

Zack Polanski AM: I really appreciate that.

23 June 2022 – London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time)

Supporting Small Business Owners

2022/2144

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Actually, I was not going to say this, but thanks for meeting with the relocation guys again. They represent a lot of small businesses and, as I have mentioned to you, they would like to at least meet again with your Deputy to take matters further. It was a very positive meeting, from what I have heard from both sides, so if you would be able to facilitate that in some way I would be very grateful.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you, Chair. I am really happy to. The Member raised this with me in the adjournment and I am more than happy to take this forward.

Supporting Small Business Owners (Supplementary) [1]

2022/2144

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: Prompt payment, yes. You will recall that the reason I brought up about late payments – and I think you yourself said this was disappointing – is because when I looked at payments that were late from the GLA, we found that in 2018/19 there were 1,280 invoices paid late. That was £13.5 million of outstanding payments. In 2019/20, there were 1,242 invoice payments that were late from the GLA to small businesses and that comes to £12.4 million, and I asked you if you had the latest figures, 2020/21. I did not expect you to have them, but you did say you would come back to me with them and I did not get them. Is it something you have looked at?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have not seen the figures, but I am sure if we have them, we can send them to you.

Supporting Small Business Owners (Supplementary) [1]

2022/2144

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: OK. I asked that question in September [2021]. In November [2021], again we put in a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, asking for those figures. Specifically, we asked, “How many invoices were paid late by the GLA group?” I received an email back in November [2021] saying, “Unfortunately, we’re still considering your request at this time and consulting third parties” and they were unable to provide a response. That was in November [2021] and we have chased it a couple of times. November, December, January, February, March, April, May, June and I still have not had a response. Is that something you can chase up for me to see what those outstanding late payments are? I agree. Looking after and supporting small businesses, especially post-COVID, is really important and it would be a shame if we, as the GLA, were letting down some small businesses in the capital.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, of course I can chase it up and it is not good enough. You should not have to chase more than the first time you ask. Let me follow that up, but also let us see which members of the GLA group - whether it is TfL, the MPS, the LFB, whatever - have particular issues and so on. I am more than happy, Chair, to get my office to respond to the Member. He should not need to chase when he has made his first request.

Supporting Small Business Owners (Supplementary) [1] 2022/2144

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: OK, thank you. Something that might be useful for you is, I was surprised, as I was digging around, that those payment statistics are no longer reported on the Corporate Health Performance Indicators (CHPI) report. In fact, I asked the question in September [2021] about the number of late payments that were coming out of the GLA to small businesses and then a month later, in November [2021], that data was withdrawn from the CHPI report, which went to senior management. Do you know who took that decision and why that decision was taken?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, I do not and you raising it is the first time I have heard of this.

Peter Fortune AM: OK. The CHPI report is the Corporate Health and Performance Indicators, and this is the document that goes to the senior management team in the GLA. This is the data, and these are the statistics that will tell senior management and you, as Mayor, how the GLA is performing. I thought it was really interesting that those payment statistics were dropped off that report because I would have thought that that is something that senior management and yourself, as Mayor, would want to keep an eye on.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I do not know, but I am more than happy to look into this and get back to him. I do not really want to speculate why that is in relation to whether it is the pandemic or whatever. Let me take it away and I am more than happy to arrange for the Member to meet with the Chief Officer to discuss any concerns he has. Also, listen, transparency is really important, particularly because he and I both want to make sure, particularly with small businesses where cashflow is so important, that they get prompt payments. That is why you are right to remind me. Prompt payment is what we should be aspiring for, not addressing late payments.

Peter Fortune AM: That is really useful. I can look forward to the data about how many late payments we have from the GLA, how many there are in terms of number of invoices and the quantum of that as well, and specifically why that really important data was dropped off of that senior management report, again strangely just a month after I asked the question.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy for the Chief Officer to do that and also if there are other things you think of after the meeting that you want looking into as good metrics, please get in touch.

Peter Fortune AM: Fabulous. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Other

27 May 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Facebook's end to end encryption

Question Number: 2021/2195

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. You are now a second-term Mayor, a convening Mayor. Could you pump up the volume on that convening please, Mr Mayor? How about a summit to get the people who are responsible for these large organisations to do what they must do?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The good news is the Government is already doing a lot of this. When [The Rt Hon] Sajid Javid [MP] was the Home Secretary, he went to Silicon Valley doing exactly what you want me to do. [The Rt Hon] Priti Patel [MP, Home Secretary] has built on that work. I am more than happy to amplify that work, work with the Government, but just to reassure you, roles are reversed where I am praising the Government, but the Government is doing a lot on this. We want to work with the Government on this. We do our own engagement and we pump up the volume our own way. We do not have the power the Government has, but I will carry on doing my bit and working closely with the Government. I can reassure you there is no danger of me reducing the sound of the volume.

24 June 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Manifesto Delivery
2021/2431

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Yes. Somewhat concerningly, your Chief of Staff did not recognise the more than 280 pledges that the Budget and Performance Committee had discovered. He also did tell us that he is happy to work with the Committee as we baseline your commitments for monitoring or tracking purposes. He said, "I can see great merit to having, if you like, a single version of the truth there". Is that something you would welcome, us establishing a set of benchmarks against your manifesto progress so that we can monitor and assess it?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That would even maybe help us. I am more than happy to.

Manifesto Delivery (Supplementary) [1]

2021/2431

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor. In your manifesto, you pledged to increase the number of employers accredited to the Good Work Standard. The number of employers is very low. When will we see an ambition to raise this? How are you going to go about raising the number of employers who are signed up to this scheme?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Good morning. The Good Work Standard is something that was not around until I became Mayor. I do not have the numbers with me but I can send you the details of how many employers are on the Good Work Standard.

Manifesto Delivery (Supplementary) [1]

2021/2431

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: How many employers will we see sign up? How many employees will be covered by this? Where are the key performance indicators (KPIs)? Where is the route map?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): These are some of the things that we will talk about at the Budget and Performance Committee going forward and at the Oversight Committee. I am more than happy, if there are specific issues you have about a particular part of the Good Work Standard, to respond to you directly. The reality is that the Good Work Standard was not there before I became Mayor. It is there only because I was elected Mayor in 2016 and because it was in my manifesto. We are delivering on that.

15 July 2021- London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Using powers in Parliament
2021/2725

Siân Berry AM

Siân Berry AM: I am glad you are looking at the Act, but I think we should be looking at it together and trying to think creatively about what things we might agree on and which could get the agreement of councils in that way, so hopefully we can do something.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): More than happy to.

24 March 2022 - London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Support to Ukrainian Refugees in London (Supplementary) [1]
2022/1161

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: This cruel war needs to end but Putin has the support of the majority of Russians because the truth of this conflict has been hidden from them. A new programme by the Congress involves trying to get that truth through to the Russian people. That is why they are asking mayors in free Europe to directly email or mail a number of their peers who head cities and local authorities in Russia, in Russian, to argue that this is a war crime.

My simple question to you, Mr Mayor, is: will you be part of that programme?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I just say thank you for your comments and your question? Your contribution is inspiring and moving. Let me take away what we can do because you are right in relation to the ability we have to put pressure on decent people in Russia. It is worth disentangling Putin's actions and the actions of decent Russians, many of whom are Londoners and are decent people. Let me take that away, Andrew. What I will do is, Deputy Chairman, I will let the Assembly know what we will be doing.

One of the ways we can show them our solidarity with Ukraine but also send a message to Putin's Russia is with a big turnout on Saturday. I can assure you, despite the best efforts of Putin, the people in Russia will see how people around the world view the actions of Putin. I am not sure if Andrew is still here but thank you for what you said and let me take that away. It is inspiring what you have said.

Support to Ukrainian Refugees in London (Supplementary) [1]
2022/1161

Peter Fortune AM

Peter Fortune AM: This is a technical question about people arriving in London with two parts to it. This is something that you will have some direct influence over because it is TfL.

One is the children arriving who will be going to school. Will there be TfL support for them in terms of journeys with Oyster cards and so on? It will be quite complicated to register them at addresses.

The second is foreign-plated cars that might be driving over from Ukraine as well. It takes 10 days to register with TfL. Will they be impacted by any charging?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you, Deputy Chairman. I can answer the first question. I cannot the second one. I will take that away, though, if that OK with you.

On the first one, yes, and TfL also is giving help to adults who may need to get across London either because they are going to other parts of the country or because they simply do not have

the ability to go across London. TfL moved pretty quickly. It is a soft-touch approach. All TfL staff have been advised on what to do if somebody comes through who is from Ukraine.

On the children issue, which has not yet arisen, but can I take that away as well? Children will arrive and it takes time and often where they may be staying will be different to where they will be going to school and elsewhere.

On the number plate stuff, I have not been briefed on that but, again, it will be an issue, particularly because people will be arriving across mainland Europe. Can I take that away, Deputy Chairman? Thanks for raising that. I am sure it has been thought about by the people at TfL but it may not have been. Let me take that away.

Peter Fortune AM: Just to add one other thing, maybe they might not have bank accounts and a lot of the TfL system is automated.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Understood. We must not assume people have thought of it. That is why I am glad you have raised it. I promise I will take it away and I will get back to you so you can be reassured.

Peter Fortune AM: Thank you.