

MAYOR OF LONDON**Jennette Arnold AM**City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA**Our ref:** MGLA140314-1628**Date:** 28 APR 2014

Dear Jennette

Thank you for your letter of 10 March about the Assembly Education Panel meeting on 13 February. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I was pleased to read that the Assembly has reiterated my representations to the DfE against the division of London regional school Commissioners.

On your first point requesting a list of sites where the GLA has used any powers or funds to help the setting up of a free school, in terms of powers, I called in the planning application of Southwark Free School and reversed the decision of Southwark Council. I did the same for the non-free school Holy Trinity Catholic Primary in Dalston, Hackney.

Although we do not give financial support to free schools, in terms of funds, I will be making an interim announcement after the pre-election period about the free schools which we have helped identify GLA group sites for. I will write to you with details after that.

The list of free schools due to open in 2014 and beyond is published by the DfE and is available to view at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288587/List_of_open_free_schools_and_free_schools_opening_in_2014_and_beyond.xlsx. Those due to open in London can be found on the list and it therefore includes all the free schools the New Schools for London unit have assisted with advice and information.

On your question about planning, the revisions to the London Plan currently out on consultation include further prioritisation of schools including Free Schools. I refer you to page 119 of the draft Further Alterations to the London Plan available to view on the GLA website at:

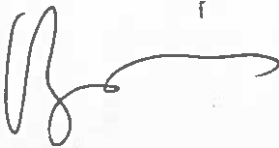
<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/FALP%20chapter%203%20-%20London%27s%20people.rtf>. The London Plan is a statutory part of the planning framework.

MAYOR OF LONDON

If by 'local authority planning guidance' you mean the National Planning Policy Framework this is available for comparison on gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-the-planning-system-work-more-efficiently-and-effectively/supporting-pages/national-planning-policy-framework>). Individual London boroughs are responsible for their own planning policies.

Thank you again for writing and for keeping me abreast of the Panel's correspondence with the DfE and the EFA which I hope proves fruitful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London