

Subject: Register of Gifts and Hospitality – Mayor and Assembly Members

Report to: Audit Panel

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Date: 22 October 2014

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the gifts and hospitality declared by the Mayor and Assembly Members in the period 1 February 2014 to 1 September 2014.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Panel notes this report and the contents of Appendix 1, which sets out gifts and hospitality declared by the Mayor and Members of the London Assembly in the period from 1 February 2014 (10am) until 1 September 2014 (10am).**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Mayor and Assembly Members are required to register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality received in connection with their official duties that has a value of £25 or over, and also the source of the gift or hospitality.
- 3.2 Gifts and hospitality were last reported to the Audit Panel on 20 March 2014 covering declarations from 1 September 2013 (10am) until 1 February 2014 (10am), a period of five months.
- 3.3 **Appendix 1** sets out gifts and hospitality declared by the Mayor and Assembly Members for a period of seven months.
- 3.4 The Mayor and Members are required to make declarations within 28 days of receiving and/or becoming aware of gifts, hospitality or interests. The Panel is asked to note that not all declarations may have been made in relation to gifts and hospitality received during the period. Any declarations of gifts and hospitality which are made in relation to the period but declared after 10am on 1 September 2014 will be reported to the next Audit Panel meeting that considers this item.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 A number of points arise from the declared items set out in **Appendix 1**:

- A total of 153 declarations were made by the Mayor and Members of the Assembly in relation to gifts or hospitality of a value of £25 or over registered within this period of seven months compared with 185 in the preceding reporting period, which covered approximately five months.
- 30 declarations were made by the Mayor, Boris Johnson, and 123 declarations were made in total by the Members of the Assembly.
- The schedule of declarations from 10am on 1 February 2014 until 10am on 1 September 2014, is as follows:

30 declarations	The Mayor, Boris Johnson
0 declarations	2 Members
1 declarations	9 Members
2 declarations	4 Members
3 declarations	4 Members
4 declarations	1 Member
12 declarations	1 Member
13 declarations	1 Member
18 declarations	1 Member
22 declarations	1 Member
25 declarations	1 Member

- In this period, the highest number of declarations registered by any one person was by the Mayor, Boris Johnson.
- As for previous reports, a significant proportion of the declarations made by the Mayor were related to gifts and hospitality in relation to liaison with suppliers, stakeholders, professional networks and partner companies.
- Common declarations continue to be in relation to hospitality in the form of lunches or dinners provided for Assembly Members and in respect of ceremonial gifts.
- Some Members register gifts and hospitality that have a value of under £25. Although this is not a legal requirement, they are published on the on-line database, but are not recorded in this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Under the Corporate Governance Framework Agreement, the GLA has committed to requiring its elected members to declare the receipt of any gifts and hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

5.2 The GLA Code of Conduct provides that:

- the procedures under which registration and declaration of interests, gifts and hospitality are to be made are set out in Appendix 5 of the Code (at section 17); and
- all Members are required to continue to declare the receipt of any gifts and hospitality in accordance with the Authority's existing procedures and guidance, by registering gifts and hospitality received on the Authority's on-line database (Appendix 5, paragraph 1.6).

5.3 Standing Order 11.1 C of the GLA Standing Orders provides that the Mayor, each Assembly Member, and every other co-opted member of an Assembly committee or subcommittee shall comply with the Code of Conduct and shall comply with any guidance, procedures or requirements relating to the Code that are approved and issued by the Authority's Monitoring Officer. The Mayor and Assembly jointly approved the Authority's gifts and hospitality policy in May 2014.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Schedule of gifts and hospitality of Mayor and Elected Members

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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