

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall
Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee
City Hall
London
SE1 2AA

Our ref: VW/ps

Date: 9 April 2015

Dear Len

Thank you for your letter of 31 March. It was my pleasure to attend the Oversight Committee meeting.

The statistic given on informal volunteering in London was taken for the Community Life Survey, which is a survey commissioned by the Cabinet Office and was published in February 2013. It provides official statistics on issues that are important to encouraging social action and empowering communities, including volunteering, giving, community engagement and well-being. The Survey is representative of adults (aged 16+) in England. The Community Life Survey delivers a nationally representative sample of adults (aged 16 years and over) in England. The sample consisted of approximately 5,000 interviews conducted by TNS-BMRB, on behalf of Cabinet Office. Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey>

The data from the report states that in London informal volunteering (once a year) had increased from 49% to 60%; informal volunteering (once a month) increased from 23% to 34%; and, formal volunteering (once a month) 19% to 28%. Formal volunteering is defined as "giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations to benefit other people or the environment", whilst informal volunteering is defined as "giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives".

Results of the 2014-15 Community Life Survey are not yet available; when they are we will be updating our website. We will also look to work with our intelligence team and third sector bodies to see if there is any further data that we can gather which would offer greater insight into the take up of volunteering in London.

I hope that provides clarity for the Oversight Committee.

Yours sincerely



Veronica Wadley
Senior Advisor to the Mayor of London
(Team London, Volunteering, Charities and Sponsorship)