

**MAYOR OF LONDON****Len Duvall AM**

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

**Date:** 23 January 2015

Dear Len,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 December 2014, sent on behalf of the GLA Oversight Committee, requesting additional information, following my attendance at its meeting on 20 November. Please accept my apologies for my delayed response. This has largely been due to officers investigating whether it is possible to obtain data on the educational attainment of London's Traveller community pupils, as this is not publically available.

The Department of Education can provide this data. They will be publishing national data on Key Stage 4 (KS4) for 2014 at the end of this month. They will then be in a position to be able to collate and provide us with the KS4 attainment of Gypsy and Roma children and Traveller children of Irish heritage (separately) for 5 A\*-C for London as a whole. They will also provide this data by gender. We can expect to obtain this in early February.

**Super-Connected Cities programme**

*Details of the Mayor's actions undertaken to ensure Black and Minority Ethnic groups are aware of the Super-Connected Cities programme and to monitor the ethnic make-up of the businesses that sign up to it.*

We are promoting the Broadband voucher scheme element of *the Super-Connected Cities programme*

- through the GLA website
- on the back of promoting other business activities
- on TfL poster sites
- through paid for advertising, such as in the Metro
- through media coverage
- by distributing leaflets
- using social media.

The application process for the Broadband voucher scheme element of *the Super-Connected Cities programme* is designed to be as light touch as possible and to be consistent with the application process used elsewhere in the country. It does not collect data on the ethnic make-up of the businesses that sign up to the Broadband voucher scheme.

It is possible to gain some indication of the likely take up by BAME businesses from known data and data that is gathered from the application process: Namely the BAME population of the boroughs, the number of vouchers issued by borough and the number of SMEs by borough. From this it is possible to map the total vouchers per 1000 SMEs in the borough against the percentage of the population which is from BAME groups (see Table 1 on the next page).

This shows that Newham is the borough with the largest BAME population, but the take up of broadband vouchers is amongst the lowest. Even accounting for the relatively low number of SMEs in the Newham, the take up rate is low.

We have worked closely with LB Newham to promote the availability of the scheme among the Borough's businesses and are continuing to do so. Officers attended the Newham Business Forum in October 2014 to present and take questions from local businesses, which was well received by those who attended. In addition we work closely with a number of internet service providers who we know are active in Newham and are encouraging them to enhance their promotion efforts.

We will continue to support all Borough events where possible and are exploring new ways of sharing information with Borough partners to ensure that they are equipped to deliver messages about the Voucher Scheme.

**Table 1: Broadband voucher scheme recipients and BAME population by borough**

Ranking 1	Borough	Total vouchers	% of population from BAME groups (2013)	Ranking 2
1	Hackney	15.4	45.7	12
2	Hammersmith and Fulham	11.4	33.5	23
3	Sutton	11.2	23.1	28
4	Islington	10.2	32.7	24
<b>5</b>	<b>Redbridge</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>3</b>
6	Haringey	10	40	18
7	Enfield	9.4	41.2	16
8	City of London	9.1	22.6	29
9	Camden	8.3	34.6	22
10	Croydon	7.5	47.2	10
11	Tower Hamlets	7.3	55.5	5
12	Westminster	7.1	40	17
<b>13</b>	<b>Brent</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>2</b>
14	Southwark	6.5	46.9	11
15	Kensington and Chelsea	6.2	30.7	25
16	Greenwich	5.3	39.6	19
17	Kingston upon Thames	4.8	27	27
18	Lewisham	4.4	48.4	9
19	Waltham Forest	4.4	49.5	8
20	Bromley	4.2	16.9	31
21	Merton	4.1	36.5	21
22	Lambeth	4	43.5	14
23	Barnet	3.9	37.1	20
24	Ealing	3.5	52.4	6
25	Barking and Dagenham	3.4	45.7	<b>13</b>
26	Havering	3.4	13.6	33
27	Wandsworth	3.3	29.4	26
28	Richmond upon Thames	3.2	14.7	32
<b>29</b>	<b>Newham</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>1</b>
30	Harrow	2.7	60.2	4
31	Hounslow	2.4	50.2	7
32	Hillingdon	1.9	19.6	30
33	Bexley	1.4	42.4	15

Ranking 1 is the order of the total vouchers per 1000 SMEs in the borough  
Ranking 2 is the order of the boroughs by percentage of BAME population

## **Inequalities in broadband access**

*Details of how the Mayor has attempted to address inequalities of broadband access across the capital.*

The Greater London Authority has been allocated £25 million from the government to deliver a focused digital connectivity plan for London. The GLA's Superconnected Cities Programme (SCCP) has two strands:

- offering micro-grant vouchers towards the connection costs incurred by businesses to make high speed broadband accessible to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to support economic growth and
- a public-building Wi-Fi hotspot scheme which will see free wifi provision in museums. These have in total a footfall of thirty million people.

We have just launched our Digital Inclusion Strategy for London. This outlines the London picture on digital exclusion, including groups which are not online, the work being done to address this and work the Mayor will undertake with partners to address the barriers people experience to exclusion.

We will implement the LEP's Growth Deal Digital Skills Programme, which aims to improve digital skills education and training, improve access to employment and help address the skills gap in the industry. This will also reduce the incidence of digital exclusion for future generations.

Following the successful Connectivity Summit, convened by the Mayor in September, he will provide leadership and ambition by bringing together internet providers and those organisations working in this area as part of the new Connectivity Advisory Group. Affordable and high speed broadband will form part of their key work areas to ensure this is championed and addressed at the highest level.

The Mayor is intending to ask Government to review Ofcom's powers in ensuring affordable broadband availability across London and the UK, and to ask them to review line rental costs and arrangements.

## **Education and attainment of the Traveller community**

*A commitment to provide more granular detail in monitoring and in future Annual Equalities Reports on the education and attainment of the Traveller community*

We will provide this as soon as we receive the data from the DfE.

## **Disability hate crime**

*Data in respect of disability hate crime, for inclusion in the next Annual Equalities Report;*

The MPS has been collecting data on disability hate crime since 2011. We will happily include this in future editions of the Mayor's Annual Equalities Report.

Table 2 Disability Hate Crime

	2011/12	2012/13	2012/14
Number of offences reported	152	108	114
Sanction detection rate	23.7%	17.6%	16.7%

## **Annual Equalities Reports traffic-lighting system**

*An undertaking to recalibrate the traffic-lighting system used in Annual Equalities Reports to be more stringent and more accurate*

We will give careful consideration to the traffic light rating within the Mayors Annual Equalities Reports.

### **Debt**

*Details of what actions are being taken to address the issue of debt.*

Actions being taken to address debt were detailed in the Mayor's response to the Assembly's Economy Committee's investigation into personal debt (letter to Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb AM, MGLA081014-8855, 21 November 2014)

We supported Toynbee Hall and the Capitalise Debt Advise Partnership in the past to analyse their client data, with a view to identifying and mapping debt trends. The results were published on the London datastore website.

We are providing advice and input into Toynbee Hall's pilot study in the borough of Tower Hamlets to determine the location and proximity of paid for and free cash machines, banking services, payday loans, cash convertor and money shops in the borough and the impact these may have on the decision making of residents. In addition we helped Toynbee Hall and Capitalise devise a questionnaire which is currently being trialled among debt advice clients in Tower Hamlets.

We promote free debt services and credit unions on the GLA website and through the Mayor's annual Know Your Rights campaign.

Last year the Mayor's London Schools Excellence Fun awarded the Personal Finance Education Group £75,000 to work with 102 teachers in 12 London schools to help pupils improve their financial literacy skills. The first tranche of teachers engaged in the project are now working with other schools across the capital to disseminate successful methods for teaching financial education, which became part of the national curriculum in September. A further £70,000 has been allocated to help expand the number of teachers and the number of pupils participating and benefiting from this initiative.

We also have in place a number of measures that either contribute to increasing the incomes or decreasing the outgoings, of those on low incomes, and thus play a part in helping people not to fall into debt. These include

- encouraging older people to take up the benefits to which they are entitled, through the Mayor's annual Know Your Rights campaign
- keeping down the GLA's share of the Council Tax
- raising and promoting employers implementation of the London Living Wage
- installing energy efficiency measures through the Mayor's RE:NEW programme, helping to reduce people's energy bills
- providing concessions on fares.

Yours sincerely



**Munira Mirza**

Deputy Mayor of London for Education and Culture

cc John Barry, Senior Committee Officer

# MAYOR OF LONDON

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

**Date:** 9 March 2015

Dear Len

You may recall that I promised in my letter of 23 January to provide Key Stage 4 attainment data of Gypsy and Roma children and Traveller children of Irish heritage for London.


I am pleased to be able to now provide this data from data provided by the Department of Education (DoE). See the table below.

**Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving 5+A\*-C grades at GCSE and equivalents, 2013/14, by gender (%)**

	<b>Gender</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>England</b>
<b>Gypsy/Roma</b>	Boys	22.6	11.0
	Girls	22.9	15.2
<b>Traveller of Irish heritage</b>	Boys	23.5	21.2
	Girls	>8*	12.7
<b>All pupils</b>	Boys	65.4	57.7
	Girls	75.8	70.2

\*We have explored with the DoE as to why this figure is so low and have not been able to ascertain any reasoning for it.

Yours sincerely



**Munira Mirza**  
Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture

cc John Barry, Senior Committee Officer