

# MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)**  
**Date: Wednesday 2 December 2015**  
**Time: 10.00 am**  
**Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/whole-assembly>

**Present:**

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair)	Jenny Jones AM
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)	Stephen Knight AM
Gareth Bacon AM	Steve O'Connell AM
Mayor John Biggs AM	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Andrew Boff AM	Murad Qureshi AM
James Cleverly AM MP	Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Tom Copley AM	Navin Shah AM
Andrew Dismore AM	Valerie Shawcross CBE AM
Roger Evans AM	Richard Tracey AM
Darren Johnson AM	Fiona Twycross AM

## **1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kemi Badenoch AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Kit Malthouse AM MP and Joanne McCartney AM.

## **2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

- 2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

### **2.2 Resolved:**

- (a) That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests; and**
- (b) That Mayor John Biggs AM's declaration of a non-pecuniary interest in the motion set out at paragraph 3.3 of Agenda Item 6, arising from his membership of the Board of the London Legacy Development Corporation, be noted.**

## **3 Minutes (Item 3)**

### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the 4 November 2015 (Plenary) meeting be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

## **4 Question and Answer Session - London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (Item 4)**

### **Part A:**

- 4.1 The Assembly put questions to the Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, Gareth Bacon AM, and the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Planning, Ron Dobson CBE QFSM, on the policies and work of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.
- 4.2 During the course of the discussion, the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Planning undertook the following:
- To ensure that in his advice during the production of LSP6, the implications towards interoperability and multiagency working would be taken into consideration as part of the geographical planning of the future London Fire Brigade (LFB);

**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Plenary)  
Wednesday 2 December 2015**

- To consider working with universities and other technology developers to determine what technological innovations, such as drones, could be introduced to assist firefighters in London;
- To consider combining fire-prevention outreach activity with flood-risk advice and, working with the Police, guidance on crime prevention;
- To update Assembly Members on the update to the LFB paging system; and
- To provide Andrew Boff AM with details of the post-fire audit in relation to the recent incident at a shop in Walpole Road, N17.

4.3 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 1**, and written answers are attached as **Appendix 2**.

**Part B:**

4.4 The Chair formally moved the motion in the agenda, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.”

4.5 **Resolved:**

**The answers to the questions asked be noted.**

## **5 Petitions (Item 5)**

5.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 Navin Shah AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

‘We the undersigned are concerned at the high levels of harmful exhaust emissions, including Nitrogen Dioxide, from diesel engine buses on Chamberlayne Road.

We call on the Mayor of London (Chair, TfL), Leon Daniels (MD, TfL), Cllr Muhammed Butt (Brent Council) to introduce low emission hybrid buses on all 7 bus routes through Chamberlayne Road by March 2016.’

5.3 **Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as Chairman of Transport for London, for response.**

5.4 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

‘I urge the Mayor not to proceed with the scrapping of all 1000 Police Community support officers.’

5.5 **Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as the occupant of the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, for response.**

5.6 Darren Johnson AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

‘In the first half of 2015, lorries were involved in all but one of the cycling fatalities in London.

Collisions with lorries are the biggest cause of cyclist deaths.

Sign the petition – tell London’s Mayor to get lethal lorries off our roads and:

- A rush hour lorry ban;
- Improved driver visions; and
- Stronger enforcement.’

5.7 **Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as Chairman of Transport for London, for response.**

5.8 Jennette Arnold OBE AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

‘Transport for London (TfL) has announced plans to replace the two lifts at Caledonian Road Tube Station, which will result in the closure of the station for 8 months from 4th January 2016 until mid-August 2016.

Islington Council has written to TfL making it clear that this plan is not good enough.

We the undersigned request that the Mayor of London instructs TfL to consider the following options –

- Repair one lift at time to keep the station open;
- Find a way to repair two lifts in far less than 8 months.

We also call for the Mayor of London to urgently review TfL’s decision and to investigate how such a decision was taken without consultation with local residents or the local council.’

5.9 **Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as Chairman of Transport for London, for response.**

**6 Motions (Item 6)**

6.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

6.2 During the course of the discussion, at 12.30pm the Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order to allow the remaining items of business on the agenda to be considered.

6.3 Jenny Jones AM proposed and Darren Johnson AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes:

- recent research suggesting that “profound and immediate changes” are now required to keep average global warming below the guardrail of 2°C and that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak as soon as possible and be falling by 10 per cent a year within the next decade<sup>1</sup>.
- analysis of the draft Paris agreement by the European Commission which suggests that, with the pledges from nations so far, global emissions won’t peak until 2030<sup>2</sup>, and further analysis suggesting that on the basis of these pledges we will still experience global average warming of 2.7°C of warming by 2100, compared to warming of 3.7°C based on the full implementation of existing government policies<sup>3</sup>.
- reporting by the Government’s Committee on Climate Change that UK emissions were only falling by an underlying rate of 1 per cent per year, when at least 3 per cent annual reductions are required to meet the its current policy commitments<sup>4</sup>.
- the £9.6 billion of UK government subsidies given annually to fossil fuel extraction in the UK and overseas, equivalent to £350 per household, which the March 2015 budget further increased while reducing support for renewable energy<sup>5</sup>, while the Energy Secretary has admitted the UK government will miss its legally binding renewable energy target for 2020 due to “the absence of a credible plan”<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Anderson, K in Nature Geoscience (12 October 2015), *Duality in climate science*

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/current-climate-commitments-would-increase-global-temperature-around-3-degrees>

<sup>3</sup> Carbon Tracker initiative, <http://climateactiontracker.org/global.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/how-the-uk-is-progressing/>

<sup>5</sup> Overseas Development Institute (November 2015), Empty promises: G20 subsidies to oil, gas and coal production, <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9957.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The Ecologist (9 November 2015), *Leaked letter: Rudd admits 25% green energy undershoot, misled Parliament*, [http://www.theecologist.org/News/news\\_analysis/2986190/leaked\\_letter\\_rudd\\_admits\\_25\\_green\\_energy\\_undershoot\\_misled\\_parliament.html](http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2986190/leaked_letter_rudd_admits_25_green_energy_undershoot_misled_parliament.html)

This Assembly calls on the Mayor of London to:

- protect climate change programmes in his 2016-17 budget, including the safeguarding of the London Climate Change Partnership following funding cuts from the Environment Agency;
- urge fellow city leaders at the C40 meetings in Paris to adopt the strongest possible measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- make this climate emergency a top priority for his remaining time in office, particularly when lobbying the government.”

6.4 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

**“This Assembly notes:**

- **recent research suggesting that “profound and immediate changes” are now required to keep average global warming below the guardrail of 2°C and that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak as soon as possible and be falling by 10 per cent a year within the next decade<sup>7</sup>.**
- **analysis of the draft Paris agreement by the European Commission which suggests that, with the pledges from nations so far, global emissions won’t peak until 2030<sup>8</sup>, and further analysis suggesting that on the basis of these pledges we will still experience global average warming of 2.7°C of warming by 2100, compared to warming of 3.7°C based on the full implementation of existing government policies<sup>9</sup>.**
- **reporting by the Government’s Committee on Climate Change that UK emissions were only falling by an underlying rate of 1 per cent per year, when at least 3 per cent annual reductions are required to meet the its current policy commitments<sup>10</sup>.**
- **the £9.6 billion of UK government subsidies given annually to fossil fuel extraction in the UK and overseas, equivalent to £350 per household, which the March 2015 budget further increased while reducing support for renewable energy<sup>11</sup>, while the Energy Secretary has admitted the UK government will miss its legally binding renewable energy target for 2020 due to “the absence of a credible plan”<sup>12</sup>.**

**This Assembly calls on the Mayor of London to:**

---

<sup>7</sup> Anderson, K in Nature Geoscience (12 October 2015), *Duality in climate science*

<sup>8</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/current-climate-commitments-would-increase-global-temperature-around-3-degrees>

<sup>9</sup> Carbon Tracker initiative, <http://climateactiontracker.org/global.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/how-the-uk-is-progressing/>

<sup>11</sup> Overseas Development Institute (November 2015), Empty promises: G20 subsidies to oil, gas and coal production, <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9957.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> The Ecologist (9 November 2015), *Leaked letter: Rudd admits 25% green energy undershoot, misled Parliament*, [http://www.theecologist.org/News/news\\_analysis/2986190/leaked\\_letter\\_rudd\\_admits\\_25\\_green\\_energy\\_undershoot\\_misled\\_parliament.html](http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2986190/leaked_letter_rudd_admits_25_green_energy_undershoot_misled_parliament.html)

- **protect climate change programmes in his 2016-17 budget, including the safeguarding of the London Climate Change Partnership following funding cuts from the Environment Agency;**
- **urge fellow city leaders at the C40 meetings in Paris to adopt the strongest possible measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and**
- **make this climate emergency a top priority for his remaining time in office, particularly when lobbying the government.”**

was agreed (with 12 votes cast in favour and 5 votes cast against).

- 6.5 The Chair announced that the second motion listed on the agenda, in the name of Jenny Jones AM, had been withdrawn in accordance with Standing Order 3.6B.
- 6.6 Mayor John Biggs AM declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the following motion, as set out at paragraph 3.3 of the report, arising from his membership of the Board of the London Legacy Development Corporation. Mayor Biggs AM left the meeting at that point, and did not participate in the debate or vote on the motion.
- 6.7 Jenny Jones AM proposed and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the considerable public interest in the Concession Agreement between the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and West Ham United FC for their rental of the Olympic Stadium.

This Assembly believes the LLDC was wrong to redact the released document, and was wrong to appeal the Information Commissioner’s ruling that the document should be published in full.

This Assembly therefore calls on the LLDC to drop its appeal against the Information Commissioner’s ruling and to publish the Concession Agreement in full.”

- 6.8 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

**“This Assembly notes the considerable public interest in the Concession Agreement between the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and West Ham United FC for their rental of the Olympic Stadium.**

**This Assembly believes the LLDC was wrong to redact the released document, and was wrong to appeal the Information Commissioner’s ruling that the document should be published in full.**

**This Assembly therefore calls on the LLDC to drop its appeal against the Information Commissioner’s ruling and to publish the Concession Agreement in full.”**

**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Plenary)  
Wednesday 2 December 2015**

was agreed unanimously.

- 6.9 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM proposed and Valerie Shawcross CBE AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the Mayor’s supportive response to its previous motion expressing concern over staffing changes and restructuring at the Newsquest Group, whose publications include:

The Croydon Guardian, Sutton Guardian, Epsom Guardian, Wimbledon Guardian, Wandsworth Guardian, Balham and Tooting Guardian, Mitcham and Morden Guardian, Kingston Guardian, Surrey Comet, Elmbridge Comet, Richmond & Twickenham Times, and The News Shopper - for Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley.

This Assembly agrees with the Mayor that local newspapers are part of the fabric of London’s local communities and play a vital role in informing people about grassroots subjects that matter to Londoners.

This Assembly believes that local newspapers continue to be a key source of information for many of London’s diverse communities, and perform a powerful public scrutiny function by holding local government and other organisations to account for their actions.

This Assembly is concerned by the recent announcement that Newsquest is to move eight posts on its titles in south London to its production centres in Weymouth and Newport – a move which the Assembly believes will threaten the quality and long term survival of local papers in south London.

This Assembly therefore calls on:

- 1) The Mayor to write to the CEO of Newsquest Group expressing further concern over the relocation of local media jobs outside London.
- 2) The Chair of the London Assembly’s Economy Committee, in consultation with party Group Leads, to include the contribution of local newspapers to London’s economy and their role in connecting local communities and businesses together in the list of future topics for possible investigation identified through the Committee’s work programme.”

- 6.10 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

**“This Assembly notes the Mayor’s supportive response to its previous motion expressing concern over staffing changes and restructuring at the Newsquest Group, whose publications include:**



**The Croydon Guardian, Sutton Guardian, Epsom Guardian, Wimbledon Guardian, Wandsworth Guardian, Balham and Tooting Guardian, Mitcham and Morden Guardian, Kingston Guardian, Surrey Comet, Elmbridge Comet, Richmond & Twickenham Times, and The News Shopper - for Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley.**

**This Assembly agrees with the Mayor that local newspapers are part of the fabric of London's local communities and play a vital role in informing people about grassroots subjects that matter to Londoners.**

**This Assembly believes that local newspapers continue to be a key source of information for many of London's diverse communities, and perform a powerful public scrutiny function by holding local government and other organisations to account for their actions.**

**This Assembly is concerned by the recent announcement that Newsquest is to move eight posts on its titles in south London to its production centres in Weymouth and Newport – a move which the Assembly believes will threaten the quality and long term survival of local papers in south London.**

**This Assembly therefore calls on:**

- 1) The Mayor to write to the CEO of Newsquest Group expressing further concern over the relocation of local media jobs outside London.**
- 2) The Chair of the London Assembly's Economy Committee, in consultation with party Group Leads, to include the contribution of local newspapers to London's economy and their role in connecting local communities and businesses together in the list of future topics for possible investigation identified through the Committee's work programme."**

was agreed unanimously.

- 6.11 Valerie Shawcross CBE AM proposed and Navin Shah AM seconded the following motion, altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (1):

"This Assembly notes the positive environmental and health effects of walking and wishes to see London become a safer city for pedestrians.

"This Assembly notes the Mayor's target to halve the number of people killed or seriously injured on London's roads by 2020<sup>[1]</sup> compared to the Government base line of 3,627.<sup>[2]</sup>

---

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2015/june/mayor-takes-action-to-halve-road-casualties-by-2020>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/casualties-in-greater-london-2014.pdf>

“This Assembly believes that a target of 1,813 people, or fewer, being killed or seriously injured on London’s roads by 2020 is still too high.

“This Assembly believes that the Mayor should adopt the Swedish Vision Zero approach to road danger, which incorporates five key principles:

- Safety: road traffic systems should take account of the fact that people make mistakes and should minimise both the opportunity for error and the harm done when they do occur.
- Ethics: human life and health have highest priority.
- Responsibility: those who design and manage road systems share responsibility with road users.
- Mechanisms for change: We must all be ready to change to achieve safety.
- Active travel which encourages healthy forms of transport such as cycling and walking.

“This Assembly further notes that Vision Zero combines strong enforcement of traffic law and better roadway engineering with campaigns to discourage dangerous behaviour on roads. It also aims to raise the profile of traffic safety problems and help change cultural attitudes, which are too accepting of road death and injury.

“This Assembly calls on the Mayor and TfL to take a bold approach to pedestrian safety. We need ambitious targets to drive forward progress on pedestrian safety, the political will to make difficult decisions, and clear leadership to build the momentum to change our roads and streets for the better. Adopting Vision Zero principles for London’s road safety policy could change public perception of road dangers as an inevitable part of modern city life. It would remind people that death and injury on our roads can be avoided if a serious effort is made to tackle the causes of the problem.”

6.12 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

**“This Assembly notes the positive environmental and health effects of walking and wishes to see London become a safer city for pedestrians.**

**“This Assembly believes that the Mayor should adopt the Swedish Vision Zero approach to road danger, which incorporates five key principles:**

- **Safety: road traffic systems should take account of the fact that people make mistakes and should minimise both the opportunity for error and the harm done when they do occur.**
- **Ethics: human life and health have highest priority.**
- **Responsibility: those who design and manage road systems share responsibility with road users.**

- **Mechanisms for change: We must all be ready to change to achieve safety.**
- **Active travel which encourages healthy forms of transport such as cycling and walking.**

**“This Assembly further notes that Vision Zero combines strong enforcement of traffic law and better roadway engineering with campaigns to discourage dangerous behaviour on roads. It also aims to raise the profile of traffic safety problems and help change cultural attitudes, which are too accepting of road death and injury.**

**“This Assembly calls on the Mayor and TfL to take a bold approach to pedestrian safety. We need ambitious targets to drive forward progress on pedestrian safety, the political will to make difficult decisions, and clear leadership to build the momentum to change our roads and streets for the better. Adopting Vision Zero principles for London’s road safety policy could change public perception of road dangers as an inevitable part of modern city life. It would remind people that death and injury on our roads can be avoided if a serious effort is made to tackle the causes of the problem.”**

**“This Assembly notes the positive environmental and health effects of walking and wishes to see London become a safer city for pedestrians.**

**“This Assembly notes the Mayor’s target to halve the number of people killed or seriously injured on London’s roads by 2020<sup>[1]</sup> compared to the Government base line of 3,627.<sup>[2]</sup>**

**“This Assembly believes that a target of 1,813 people, or fewer, being killed or seriously injured on London’s roads by 2020 is still too high.**

**“This Assembly believes that the Mayor should adopt a Vision Zero approach to road danger, which incorporates four key principles:**

- **Safety: road traffic systems should take account of the fact that people make mistakes and should minimise both the opportunity for error and the harm done when they do occur.**
- **Ethics: human life and health have highest priority.**
- **Responsibility: those who design and manage road systems share responsibility with road users.**
- **Mechanisms for change: We must all be ready to change to achieve safety.**

**“This Assembly further notes that Vision Zero combines strong enforcement of traffic law and better roadway engineering with campaigns to discourage dangerous**

---

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2015/june/mayor-takes-action-to-halve-road-casualties-by-2020>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/casualties-in-greater-london-2014.pdf>

**behaviour on roads. It also aims to raise the profile of traffic safety problems and help change cultural attitudes, which are too accepting of road death and injury.**

**“This Assembly calls on the Mayor and TfL to take a bold approach to pedestrian safety. We need ambitious targets to drive forward progress on pedestrian safety, the political will to make difficult decisions, and clear leadership to build the momentum to change our roads and streets for the better. Adopting Vision Zero principles for London’s road safety policy could change public perception of road dangers as an inevitable part of modern city life. It would remind people that death and injury on our roads can be avoided if a serious effort is made to tackle the causes of the problem.”**

was agreed unanimously.

6.13 Murad Qureshi AM proposed and Andrew Boff AM seconded the following motion:

“Around 17,000 domestic workers are brought to the UK each year to work in some of the most exclusive residential areas of London<sup>13</sup>. Migrant domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation<sup>14</sup> and evidence suggests that low pay, physical and mental abuse, long working hours, and trafficking are endemic. Reports of abuse and exploitation are rare and to date there has been no conviction upheld for trafficking an adult to the UK for domestic servitude<sup>15</sup>.

The situation is exacerbated under the current visa rules<sup>16</sup>, introduced in 2012, which tie domestic workers to their employer<sup>17</sup>. Critics of the tied-visa claim that the UK government has recreated kafala, a much criticised sponsorship system used in Gulf States, which is turning migrant workers into modern day slaves<sup>18</sup>.

The Mayor’s response to the issue is that MOPAC’s victim strategy pays careful attention to ensure the best possible reach of resources to all victims of crime<sup>19</sup>. More could be done to make sure that convictions are upheld and to stop abuse from happening in the first place.

This Assembly therefore welcomes the suggestion made by the Government’s Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, for an inspections system designed to assess the welfare of

---

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Kalayaan-3-year-briefing.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Domestic work by its nature is carried out in the home of the employer, out of sight from the outside world regulatory bodies. Migrant domestic workers also often live in the home of their employer which further increases their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.

<sup>15</sup> [Kalayaan Briefing: Research on Police Effectiveness in the Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers](#)

<sup>16</sup> Since April 2012 migrant domestic workers who enter the UK on the Overseas Domestic Worker visa are tied to their employer, if the worker leaves for any reason they will have breached the immigration rules.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Kalayaan-3-year-briefing.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/17/uk-tied-visa-system-turning-domestic-workers-into-modern-day-slaves>

<sup>19</sup> [http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_281962](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_281962)

domestic workers<sup>20</sup>. However, concerns that such regulation would be ineffectual under the current tied-visa must be taken into account when considering future policies to protect domestic workers.

We understand that the recommendations of an independent review of the tied-visa commissioned by the Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime, Karen Bradley, are due to be announced<sup>21</sup>. Given the barrier to justice for domestic workers that the tied visa presents, this Assembly calls on the Mayor, in his capacity as the de facto Police and Crime Commissioner for London, to write to the Home Secretary, making the case for the tied-visa to be repealed.”

6.14 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

**“Around 17,000 domestic workers are brought to the UK each year to work in some of the most exclusive residential areas of London<sup>22</sup>. Migrant domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation<sup>23</sup> and evidence suggests that low pay, physical and mental abuse, long working hours, and trafficking are endemic. Reports of abuse and exploitation are rare and to date there has been no conviction upheld for trafficking an adult to the UK for domestic servitude<sup>24</sup>.**

**The situation is exacerbated under the current visa rules<sup>25</sup>, introduced in 2012, which tie domestic workers to their employer<sup>26</sup>. Critics of the tied-visa claim that the UK government has recreated kafala, a much criticised sponsorship system used in Gulf States, which is turning migrant workers into modern day slaves<sup>27</sup>.**

**The Mayor’s response to the issue is that MOPAC’s victim strategy pays careful attention to ensure the best possible reach of resources to all victims of crime<sup>28</sup>. More could be done to make sure that convictions are upheld and to stop abuse from happening in the first place.**

**This Assembly therefore welcomes the suggestion made by the Government’s Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, for an inspections system designed to assess**

---

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/wealthy-foreigners-face-spot-checks-on-domestic-staff-to-stamp-out-slavery-a3109971.html>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/17/uk-tied-visa-system-turning-domestic-workers-into-modern-day-slaves>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Kalayaan-3-year-briefing.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Domestic work by its nature is carried out in the home of the employer, out of sight from the outside world regulatory bodies. Migrant domestic workers also often live in the home of their employer which further increases their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.

<sup>24</sup> [Kalayaan Briefing: Research on Police Effectiveness in the Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers](http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Kalayaan-3-year-briefing.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Since April 2012 migrant domestic workers who enter the UK on the Overseas Domestic Worker visa are tied to their employer, if the worker leaves for any reason they will have breached the immigration rules.

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Kalayaan-3-year-briefing.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/17/uk-tied-visa-system-turning-domestic-workers-into-modern-day-slaves>

<sup>28</sup> [http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_281962](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_281962)

**the welfare of domestic workers<sup>29</sup>. However, concerns that such regulation would be ineffectual under the current tied-visa must be taken into account when considering future policies to protect domestic workers.**

**We understand that the recommendations of an independent review of the tied-visa commissioned by the Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime, Karen Bradley, are due to be announced<sup>30</sup>. Given the barrier to justice for domestic workers that the tied visa presents, this Assembly calls on the Mayor, in his capacity as the de facto Police and Crime Commissioner for London, to write to the Home Secretary, making the case for the tied-visa to be repealed.”**

was agreed unanimously.

6.15 Andrew Dismore AM proposed and Tom Copley AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly rejects the shameful, decades-old practice of blacklisting that has in the UK construction industry, ruined the lives of thousands of workers and their families<sup>31</sup>. The wide scale nature of blacklisting was illustrated by the Information Commissioner’s 2009 raid on the offices of the notorious Consulting Association, which uncovered a blacklist containing the names of thousands of construction workers<sup>32</sup>.

Over thirty large construction companies used the Consulting Association database, which contained information about construction workers’ personal relationships, trade union activity, and employment history<sup>33</sup>. This Assembly notes that most of the workers on the blacklist of the Consulting Association were trade unionists, many of them blacklisted for raising legitimate health and safety concerns with their employer.

This Assembly is therefore concerned to learn that Keir Group – a founder member of the Consulting Association<sup>34</sup> – is involved in the building, development, and maintenance of the nine PFI fire stations that are being constructed across London. This is especially disappointing, given the Mayor’s categorical statement in 2013 that:

“I do not condone or tolerate the blacklisting of workers, whether for raising health and safety concerns or for any other reason.”<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/wealthy-foreigners-face-spot-checks-on-domestic-staff-to-stamp-out-slavery-a3109971.html>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/17/uk-tied-visa-system-turning-domestic-workers-into-modern-day-slaves>

<sup>31</sup> Nigel Morris, Thousands of workers 'blacklisted' over political views, *Independent*, 06.08.12

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> Dave Smith and Phil Chamberlain, On the blacklist: how did the UK’s top building firms get secret information on their workers?, *Guardian*, 27.02.15

<sup>34</sup> Scottish Affairs Committee (2013), *Ninth Report Blacklisting in Employment: Interim Report*

<sup>35</sup> Mayor of London’s response to 16 January 2013 Plenary motion on blacklisting, 05.03.13

This Assembly is determined that blacklisting should never occur again and calls on the Mayor to emphasise to all functional bodies that every employee must be protected in raising health and safety concerns and their fundamental right to trade union membership without the fear of reprisals be upheld; and calls on LFEPA to examine whether its internal procurement processes and/or commercial law allows it to exclude contractors that have been implicated in the practice of blacklisting, such as Kier Group.”

6.16 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

**“This Assembly rejects the shameful, decades-old practice of blacklisting that has in the UK construction industry, ruined the lives of thousands of workers and their families<sup>36</sup>. The wide scale nature of blacklisting was illustrated by the Information Commissioner’s 2009 raid on the offices of the notorious Consulting Association, which uncovered a blacklist containing the names of thousands of construction workers<sup>37</sup>.**

**Over thirty large construction companies used the Consulting Association database, which contained information about construction workers’ personal relationships, trade union activity, and employment history<sup>38</sup>. This Assembly notes that most of the workers on the blacklist of the Consulting Association were trade unionists, many of them blacklisted for raising legitimate health and safety concerns with their employer.**

**This Assembly is therefore concerned to learn that Keir Group – a founder member of the Consulting Association<sup>39</sup> – is involved in the building, development, and maintenance of the nine PFI fire stations that are being constructed across London. This is especially disappointing, given the Mayor’s categorical statement in 2013 that:**

**“I do not condone or tolerate the blacklisting of workers, whether for raising health and safety concerns or for any other reason.”<sup>40</sup>**

**This Assembly is determined that blacklisting should never occur again and calls on the Mayor to emphasise to all functional bodies that every employee must be protected in raising health and safety concerns and their fundamental right to trade union membership without the fear of reprisals be upheld; and calls on LFEPA to examine whether its internal procurement processes and/or commercial law allows it to exclude contractors that have been implicated in the practice of blacklisting, such as Kier Group.”**

---

<sup>36</sup> Nigel Morris, Thousands of workers 'blacklisted' over political views, *Independent*, 06.08.12

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Dave Smith and Phil Chamberlain, On the blacklist: how did the UK’s top building firms get secret information on their workers?, *Guardian*, 27.02.15

<sup>39</sup> Scottish Affairs Committee (2013), *Ninth Report Blacklisting in Employment: Interim Report*

<sup>40</sup> Mayor of London’s response to 16 January 2013 Plenary motion on blacklisting, 05.03.13

was agreed (with 11 votes cast in favour and 4 votes cast against).

## **7 Action Taken by the Chair under Delegated Authority (Item 7)**

7.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

### **7.2 Resolved:**

**That the action taken by the Chair of the Assembly, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, in accordance with the authority delegated to her, namely not to hold a confirmation hearing in respect of the proposed reappointment of Gareth Bacon AM as Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority for the period 1 December 2015 to 16 June 2016, be noted.**

## **8 Date of Next Meeting (Item 8)**

8.1 It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly would be the Mayor's Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 16 December 2015 in the Chamber, City Hall.

## **9 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 9)**

8.1 There were no items of urgent business.

## **10 Close of Meeting**

10.1 The meeting ended at 12.58pm.

---

Chair

---

Date

**Contact Officers:** John Barry  
Principal Committee Manager  
GLA Secretariat, City Hall  
The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

**Telephone:** 020 7983 4425  
**Email:** john.barry@london.gov.uk