

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

**Gareth Bacon AM**

Chairman  
Budget and Performance Committee  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

**Our ref:** MGLA210716-8848

**Date:** 27 JUL 2016

*Dear Assembly Member Bacon,*

**Budget Guidance 2017-18**

Thank you for your letter of 18 July and your request that I commit to publishing initial budget submissions before I publish the Consultation Budget.

As you know, the legal process is for me to develop and consult on Budget proposals and for the Assembly to consider and amend them. The introduction of the initial budget submission does not reduce the quantity or quality of information that will be made available to the Assembly to scrutinise my Budget in comparison to earlier years.

As my Chief of Staff explained at your Committee meeting, there is a balance to be struck between transparency and my need for private advice which is not inhibited. As you know, I am committed to being as transparent as I can, but at the same time I do require the best possible advice from officers. I am concerned that the request you make may inadvertently inhibit the information I need to consider in making my Budget proposals.

I would also add that the precedent you cite of Transport for London's (TfL's) advice on fares being made available, does seem to me to prove the difficulty of your request. The advice the Assembly received from TfL did not set out fares options but simply set out the basis for the one fares option that was agreed by my predecessor. This precedent seems to show that the expectation of private advice being made publicly available can inhibit its production and either reduces the quality and thoroughness of the advice provided to the Mayor, or leads to it being supplied by other means.

So, my provisional view remains that the initial budget submission and the detailed templates should remain as private advice to me. However, I am prepared to further consider your request once I have reviewed the content of the submissions.

# MAYOR OF LONDON

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London

Cc: Tony Arbour AM, Chairman of the London Assembly  
David Bellamy, Chief of Staff  
Martin Clarke, Executive Director of Resources, GLA  
David Gallie, Assistant Director – Group Finance, GLA  
Lucy Pickering, Scrutiny Manager, Assembly