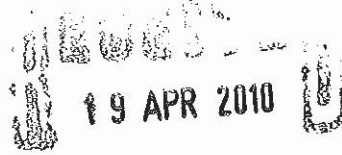


GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY
Standards Committee

Dee Doocey
Chair of the Economic Development,
Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee



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Date: 16 April 2010

Dear Dee

Role of the Independent Element in the Recruitment Process

Thank you for your letter dated 12 February 2010, informing the Standards Committee about your concerns in respect of the role of the independent element in the recruitment process. Your letter was circulated and discussed at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 9 March 2010.

The Committee received an update from the Executive Director of Communities and Intelligence in relation to the appointments process for the Chair of the London Arts Council Board. He informed the Committee that the Mayor and Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport were in on-going correspondence regarding the arrangements for re-running the competitive selection process for the position.

The Standards Committee shares your concerns about the clarity of the role of the independent element. We were due to receive a report reviewing the Protocol for Mayoral Appointments at our meeting on 9 March 2010. However, that report was deferred in order that the Protocol could be reviewed in the light of the recommendations arising from the Audit Commission's Ethical Governance Audit of the GLA (which reviewed the role and function of the Committee and its Independent Members).

Recommendations relating to the mayoral appointments procedures and the role of the independent element will be included in the draft action plan arising from that audit. The Committee will then be considering the draft action plan at its next meeting on 15 June 2010.

The Standards Committee has asked officers specifically to consult the Independent Members about their experiences as the independent element as part of the review of the role and function of the independent element, in order that their concerns and issues can be properly taken into account as part of this process.

I will write to you again following our meeting on 15 June 2010 to let you know the outcome of the review. I understand that the draft action plan will also be presented to the Assembly for consideration (via the Business Management and Administration Committee and the Audit Panel).

Yours sincerely

Clae Lloyd-Jones
Chair of the Standards Committee