

Transport

Barkingside South LTN (Supplementary) [3]

Question Number: 2020/3638

15 October 2020

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: Mr Mayor, I will be brief on this. I have listened to the debate. The issue in my neck of the woods is a cross-border consultation. I am talking about the Crystal Palace area that is the conjunction of five boroughs. The main effect, I believe, is the imposition of the LTNs - which in principle, with proper consultation, I have no objection to - and the effect on the adjoining borough of Bromley. I would urge - I have written to TfL - your support that there is proper consultation and indeed that that consultation cuts across adjoining boroughs because it does affect residents in their normal business running across both boroughs. Would you accept and confirm that, Mr Mayor, if possible?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I know the area well. He is right. It is literally five boroughs in that Palace area. There are consequences in relation to what Borough A may do on other boroughs and there are other examples across London as well.

Steve O'Connell AM: Exactly.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy if he wants me to look into any particular cases. [Deputy Mayor for Transport] Heidi Alexander is doing a good job trying to negotiate them. However, he is absolutely right. There is an anomaly - I do not want to call it a loophole - that means that Borough B can often have adverse consequences because of very good policies in Borough A that are working for Borough A but lead to displacement and other challenges.

Barkingside South LTN (Supplementary) [2]

Question Number: 2020/3638

15 October 2020

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Mr Mayor, you say these are council schemes and they are being supported by TfL. That is correct, I am sure. However, in the Redbridge case in particular there are some real safety concerns. I am wondering if you can prompt TfL to support the Council more because the Council is not listening to local residents. The very particular safety concern I am talking about is the signage. Much of the signage for the low-traffic neighbourhoods is incorrect and in one example in particular there is no signage and so cars are turning off the A12, being confronted with a barrier and then having to back onto the A12, which is, of course, highly dangerous. I wonder if you can get TfL to have a look at that because the residents have not been able to get the Council to do anything about it.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, you will appreciate I am not fully sighted on an issue with the A12. However, if the Member wants to email my office I am more than happy to look at particular concerns, particularly if they are safety concerns.

Barkingside South LTN

Question Number: 2020/3638

15 October 2020

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Can I start, Mr Mayor, by thanking you for the reintroduction of motorcycle training? As you are aware, there has been an increase in motorcycle deaths over the last figures. I was wondering whether you would be able to help me and agree that I could organise a roundtable with the Deputy Mayor for Transport to discuss this issue around motorcycle deaths, bringing in experts like Motorcycle Action Group and so on, so that we can see what we can do about that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Assembly Member Prince has been a really good champion for motorcycle safety and some of the issues that have been brought to my attention. I am more than happy - because he is always very collegiate and always has good ideas - to arrange for a meeting, a roundtable as he has suggested, with Deputy Mayor for Transport Heidi Alexander.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Do you think it is right that there was little or no consultation with the blue light services, which has resulted in a number of delays in them attending emergency callouts and there does seem to be a need for urgent change to some of the schemes just to allow access for emergency services?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is worth reminding all of us that the schemes across London arose from an Emergency Traffic Order that the Government introduced for good reasons. The Government was keen to avoid a car-led recovery but also deal with the pandemic and to allow social distance to be kept and the rest of it. My understanding is that the councils have been speaking regularly with the blue-light services and they will continue to do so. Any changes that need to be made because of concerns raised by blue-light services are made by councils across London, I have seen for myself them doing so, and indeed by TfL on some of its schemes.

However, if he is aware of any particular issues in Redbridge that are causing the emergency services problems, please, if he has not had any success with the Council or anybody else, let us know and we can make sure we raise any concerns from the emergency services with the Council and make any changes that are required to be made.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. That is really helpful, thank you.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2020/3783

15 October 2020

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Chair. Very briefly, Mr Mayor, I want to pick up on one point that was in your letter to the Prime Minister this morning that went out on Twitter, which is the point about people needing to pass credit reference checks in order to access home testing. Otherwise, they have to use walk-in or drive-through testing facilities, which I agree with you is hard for older and disabled people, particularly people without access to a car.

Is this a gap you can resolve through our transport services? Have you thought about supplying COVID-secure taxis so that people without cars can get to testing centres? Many taxis are sitting idle at the moment because there is not the volume of work. I was talking to the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association (LTDA) about that just yesterday.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Transport for London (TfL), Chair, is currently in negotiations with the Department for Transport (DfT) and you will be aware of the conditions attached to us in relation to any additional expenditure. I am happy to pass on to the negotiating team the suggestion made from the Assembly Member about the possibility to do just that.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

Safeguarding the interests of disabled people

Question Number: 2020/3293

15 October 2020

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: With physical distancing set to run through the winter, will you ensure that the pavements that are widened are fully accessible like the ones in Brixton and Camden.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am not sighted on the details but I am more than happy to look at the suggestion that Assembly Member Russell raises. I understand why she raises it. Can I take that away and come back to you?

Caroline Russell AM: Absolutely. Thank you very much. I have also seen a few Streetspace schemes where tactile or blister paving, which enables visually impaired people to find a crossing, is in place, for example, on Park Lane for the bus stop bypasses. It can be done. Why is tactile paving not being used on all Streetspace schemes including the borough ones?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, I am not excusing. I am just explaining. It was the speed of getting them done in light of the deadlines set by the Government. This is not a criticism of the Government, either.

Again, if there are examples where we are not using the right equipment like the tactile stuff that is really important for visually impaired people, I am really happy offline to speak to the Assembly Member, Chair. What all of us want is to make sure that everyone will take advantage, including those with disability issues. I am more than happy to look into that.

Caroline Russell AM: That is great. Thank you very much. The groups that I have spoken with have raised specific concerns about equality impact assessments on Streetspace schemes. Will you ensure that the equality impact assessments are, as Transport for All have asked, robust, meaningful and coproduced so that you can fully involve local disabled people in checking the impact of any schemes on their neighbouring streets?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are in danger of being in agreement on everything.

Caroline Russell AM: That is marvellous.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure that does her street cred much good. That makes perfect sense to me.

Caroline Russell AM: I am almost out of time here. I just wanted to say that these simple things like having very smooth pavements, dropped curves and tactile paving are absolutely crucial for disabled Londoners to get around safely. New temporary measures can be accompanied with details like a tapping rail to indicate where space is being used for tables and chairs to help visually impaired people get past safely.

I will write you with more details on those ideas. As we go into winter with this need to stay physically apart, these Streetspace schemes need improving, not removing. Thank you. I have no further questions.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you. I am really happy to work with the Assembly Member on this. It is a really good example of ideas she has that we can action that will improve life for everyone.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Hammersmith Bridge Full Closure (Supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2020/2857

17 September 2020

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor. Will you look at the frequency of the 533 bus as one way to mitigate the issue we have just been discussing?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will look into that, Chair. I will get the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] or the Commissioner [of TfL] to write to the Member to respond to that point.

Ultra Low Emission Zone

Question no: 2020/2569

17 September 2020

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you. I want to be sure that with the extension of the ULEZ you really are planning ahead and ensuring the technology can be flexible and adapt to new challenges in tackling congestion and pollution on London's roads.

When will the contract that has been signed by TfL be published so that we can assess your plans?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not aware. Can I look into that and write back to you and let you know --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: We have seen in the summer that a contract was signed, I believe, with Capita but it has not been published yet.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, through you, can I write back to the Member to give her the answer? I am not aware of having that information with me, but I will write back to her and let her know.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you. There are many questions that we would want to have answers to. For example, will the cameras be able to specifically monitor the individual pollution levels created by each vehicle? I know the technology now exists. Will the new technology be able to monitor excessive noise from vehicles, as we have seen introduced in places like Paris? Most importantly, will the extension of the ULEZ allow a move to smart road pricing at some point where people are charged for the length of their journeys and the level of pollution their vehicles are creating rather than bluntly entering a zone and crossing a line?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is really important to avoid any misunderstanding. Nowhere in the world is a ULEZ of the scale of ours being tried. You mentioned Paris. Paris has a couple of roads, I would say, with respect to Paris, rather than the scheme we are talking about. We are talking about --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: They are doing noise, yes.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You are talking about technology that can be expanded up to the North Circular and South Circular. At the moment, the only technology we have that can be effective on this scale is the ANPR. It does not address the complexities that you would like us to, but we are exploring whether it is possible to do so on the scale we want to do. The scale is not just the five boroughs in central London. It is going all the way to the North and South Circulares.

Crossrail

Question no: 2020/2098

16 July 2020

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Mr Mayor, when you dig down and look at possible opening dates for Crossrail, the real issue is the progress on key milestones. Trial running still has to take place. When do you think trial running will start?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a good question. The advice I have received is that some of the reliability that the trial running is testing can be done during dynamic testing, which means it is possible theoretically - I am not saying this will happen - for there to be sufficiently good dynamic testing to shorten the period of trial running before opening.

I want it to be this year. It was originally going to be around September. That may be pushed back because of the delay in dynamic testing. We will know more after the July board meeting. We will definitely know more after the August board meeting. As soon as I know, I will share that with the Assembly.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you. The most recent independent consultant's report on Crossrail, which was published only last week on TfL's website says, I quote, "Crossrail Ltd has failed to achieve a programme that has achievable milestones and dependable forecast dates". With experts making such claims - and these are your independent experts - I believe it is vital that we have some full answers.

You have said several times you have a July board meeting. Perhaps after that meeting you will be able to write to me and confirm when trial running will commence, how long you anticipate it taking and when down to the actual month Crossrail will finally open. That is what Londoners want and that is what we all want: to get this railway open. Will you agree to write to me after the July board meeting with that information so that we can get this railway back on track?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am very happy to write to not just Caroline but the entire Assembly after the July board meeting to give a summary of what we have been told at that board meeting and, similarly, I also undertake to write to the Assembly after the August board meeting as well to make sure you are fully sighted on what we are being told by the Crossrail team.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: And with a month when the railway will open, please. Thank you very much.

Navin Shah AM (Chair): Yes, thank you, Mr Mayor, for that commitment. Please do write to Assembly Members following the board meeting as just indicated.

Temporary Changes to Road Layouts

Question no: 2020/2520

16 July 2020

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your answer. You will appreciate road surface use is always contentious and we all want more cycling and more walking, but at a time when we are trying to get people to keep their one-metre distance we do need people to be able to drive as well. Would you be able to get your Deputy Mayor to meet me before September for a site visit to Park Lane and Edgware Road because, it is not the principle of the schemes we object to, it is the way they have been designed, and it is causing real congestion already when at the moment obviously we do not have that much traffic in London. If Heidi [Alexander, Deputy Mayor for Transport] had the time I would be very grateful to meet her on Park Lane and then take her to Edgware Road. Thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you, Chair, I would be happy to do so, just to reassure the Assembly Member. The local MP also raised an issue, which we have addressed, but I am more than happy to facilitate that.

Travelling safely in London during the COVID-19 pandemic

2020/1614

18 June 2020

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much indeed for your answer, Mr Mayor. If we are to ensure social distancing is maintained while more people are starting to travel again, we really must look at all transport capacity to make sure it is all used and be imaginative. I have a few suggestions for you this morning.

Pre-COVID Stratford Station was incredibly crowded, yet there is significant spare capacity at the nearby Stratford International Station. That station could help relieve the situation and offer significant relief to Stratford Regional Station. It is only six minutes from central London, yet the current fare pricing deters many people from using this station.

I am wondering what discussions you are having with Southeastern and also the DfT to change this and to allow more passengers to use this route?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I first of all put this on the record: the Assembly Member has been really constructive over the last 14 weeks, helping the Deputy Mayor and TfL with advice like this.

Can I be honest: I do not have the answer. Can I take this away? I promise to write to her or Heidi [Alexander, Deputy Mayor for Transport] will. I am not sure of the answer and I do not want to mislead inadvertently the Assembly Member. I will write back to you.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much. It is an issue here around the pricing --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I get the point, Assembly Member. It is a sound point. Can I look into it?

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is a way we could add capacity. Another area where you could make a change very quickly - and you could do this - is by putting Thameslink on the Tube map. Thameslink is fully accessible for disabled people. It is an incredibly frequent Tube-like service through the centre of London. It could provide an alternative route for many people, reducing pressure particularly on things like the Northern line. This was a recommendation that came from the Transport Committee recently. Will you look to put Thameslink on the Tube map?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): On that one, Chair, the Rail Delivery Group (RDG), which Heidi sits on, meetings on a weekly basis and sometimes more than once a week. What I can do is make sure that the Deputy Mayor puts this on the next agenda as an item with the RDG because that will be the place to co-ordinate this happening.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Lots of Londoners do not know about it. It is this hidden gem, virtually a Tube line, as I say, through the centre of London and it is fully accessible. People with mobility issues really welcome being able to travel like anyone else and there is also space on those Thameslink lines. I hope you can take that forward, but you could make that decision and put that line on the map. Will you do that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We will discuss it at the RDG. I am not sure it is quite as straightforward as that. We will speak to the DfT on the RDG to see if we can take this forward.

TfL Emergency Budget

2020/1795

18 June 2020

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. You used the words “constant contact”, etc. Can you tell me just how often you find out or you look into the finances of TfL?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I meet once a week with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and I get daily emails from the Commissioner [of TfL]. I speak to my Deputy Mayor [for Transport] four or five times a week and she speaks to the Commissioner and the CFO on an almost daily basis.

Susan Hall AM: You are right on top of that. With Crossrail in the background, one worries about your financial contact at the moment with TfL.

Is there anything that you could then send to the Budget and Performance Committee? Clearly, we are so far behind all the time. We want to make sure that we have constant access to the finances of TfL.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am really keen to make sure that you have what you need. For Crossrail, it is a bit different. Crossrail hoped to have a better idea - they told us by the end

of June - in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on timelines and also on the money they will need. They still have a very much can-do attitude.

I will make sure after this meeting I drop a note to Mark Wild [Chief Executive, Crossrail] and Tony Meggs [Chairman, Crossrail] to say that you would like any information - I am sure you would appreciate it could be in draft form - and numbers from them. The July TfL Board meeting should give us a better idea. I will make sure that as soon as Simon Kilonback [CFO, TfL] has some numbers, he shares them with you as well.

Modern Slavery Statement

2020/1716

18 June 2020

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: In the statement, Mr Mayor, you quite rightly identified cleaners as being a prime risk, but should we not also bring under your umbrella, because I think we would all welcome it and the unions would welcome it, bus drivers as well --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely.

Keith Prince AM: -- because there are a large proportion of BAME in that area, there are a lot of people at risk, and do you not think we should just add them in?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Just to reassure you, not only have we gone above and beyond any transport authority in the country in relation to safety of bus drivers --

Keith Prince AM: I agree.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): -- I have also commissioned University College London (UCL), the Institute of Health Equity there, led by Sir Michael Marmot [Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity], to do a piece of really serious independent work reassuring us that we are doing all we can, as you are concerned about as well, to make sure our bus drivers are safe, but also to come back with recommendations about what more we can do. That is notwithstanding the fact that they are not employed by us. Sorry, I do not want to give an impression we do not care about them. The fact they are employed by independent companies is irrelevant. We really do care about them.

Keith Prince AM: That is the point, Mr Mayor. I know you do care about them and I absolutely accept that you genuinely care about them. All I am asking is can we make it a more formal protection under you, Mr Mayor, to review the statement and to possibly include them in the statement?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, why don't I raise with Heidi [Alexander] to speak with Keith Prince [AM] because, as ever, he has a good idea, so can I offline resolve this? I am sure we will address the concerns you have raised because they are often good concerns. Let me ask Heidi Alexander [Deputy Mayor for Transport] to deal with this, please, Chair.

Covid-19 and safe travel

2020/1465

21 May 2020

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, firstly, can I just put on record my thanks to the staff. Assembly Member Pidgeon's public message has been really supportive, and that message clarity has been really, really helpful, and I am really grateful. I really am.

We are exploring a number of these issues, but I have one hand tied behind my back because of the requirements from Government in relation to the options available to me on a number of issues. We are looking at the very issues she has raised about how we can 'massage' the people using public transport to give a carrot. Not now, because now we are still in lockdown. I am quite clear: we are still in lockdown. You should really be at home unless you have a very good reason not to be at home. You are right to ask me to explore what we do once lockdown has been lifted.

I can now reassure you that that work is being undertaken now so we will be as ready as we can be, should we in the future move to a phase where there is more of an easing of lockdown and we get to a stage where we are encouraging people outside of the rush hours to use public transport. She will be aware as an expert, 5.45am to 8.30am are difficult times, and about 4.00pm to 5.30pm are difficult times, and the other complication is if schools start returning as well, but we are exploring that. I am happy to have Deputy Mayor for Transport [Heidi] Alexander speak to Caroline Pidgeon about some of the things because I know she takes a keen interest in this.

Time to develop Streetspace plan

2020/1466

21 May 2020

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Absolutely, I am entirely in support of avoiding a car-led recovery. That would be disastrous for us. I think some of the boroughs need some clarity about what funding is available to be bid for, and it would be very helpful if there could be more clarity for the boroughs about exactly what pots of money are available and how to bid for it. Yes, these people in outer London do need these wider pavements. They need the safer crossings just as much as people in inner London. It is really important that we do not forget about them.

Just looking at the cycle lane network for a moment, there is not much being done yet. You have started building a cycle lane on Park Lane. Do you know how many extra kilometres you will have provided by the end of June in inner and outer London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can provide that to you offline. It is not quite right in relation to the size of Park Lane that there is not much detail. There are huge amounts of additional kilometres added in cycling since we announced these plans.

Also, just to reassure you, both Heidi [Alexander] and Will [Norman] went to speak to council leaders as recently as last week to let them know about some of the funding available to support them with these plans. One of the reasons why you are right that we have to widen pavements in outer London as well is because of some of the queues outside shops and some of the queues at bus stops. I will make sure Will drops Caroline a line here letting her know of our ambitions by the end of June. What we are going to do is be even more ambitious than any city in the world.

Caroline Russell AM: That is great, and if you could make sure that breakdown is in terms of inner and outer London, that would be really helpful. I have no further questions. Thank you very much.

Time to develop Streetspace plan (Supplementary) [1]

2020/1466

21 May 2020

David Kurten AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank you for raising the question. You are absolutely right. Taxis are accessible to those who are disabled. TfL is looking into providing zero-emission-capable (ZEC) taxis with access to both the bridges that you have mentioned and other areas where traffic is restricted, and you are right. I will make sure that further details are announced as and when those changes are made.

David Kurten AM: That is something, Mr Mayor, talking about ZEC taxis continuing to be able to go over London Bridge and Waterloo Bridge, but there are many, many other roads as well. If you come off Waterloo Bridge and you want to go up to Holborn, you need to go up the Kingsway, and you say that is not going to be available to taxis at the moment. You did not mention that. You did not mention Clerkenwell Road. You did not mention Moorgate. You did not mention Bishopsgate, for example. Of course, at the moment, 75% of taxis are not ZEC. You have many taxi drivers who have invested in the TX4s before your policy came along to make all taxis ZEC. What about those drivers who do not have a ZEC and who still need to perhaps take disabled passengers to a destination on Clerkenwell Road, for example?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You will be aware of the concerns we have around air quality and the issues around nitrous oxides (NOx) and carbon as well. TfL is looking into the ZECs. I am more than happy for the Assembly Member to speak to the Deputy Mayor for Transport and the Walking and Cycling Commissioner if there are any representations he wants to make in relation to plans going forward. It is really important we take on board issues raised by others. I am keen to make sure that those who are disabled can continue to have access but also we can continue to ensure that emergency services can have access as well. We are looking into ZECs, but if he wants to, he can raise this with my Deputy Mayor. I will organise a meeting for him to do so.

David Kurten AM: That would be very good, Mr Mayor, because I think this is a very, very important issue for taxi drivers and also the people who rely on them. I welcome your willingness to set up a meeting. Thank you.

Public Transport Capacity

2020/1502

21 May 2020

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: If I could just finish, then, Mr Mayor, the ask is really at this moment in time, because of the importance that motorcycles play in getting people around without the risk of getting infected and because of the importance that motorcycles play in keeping London running - you will know that many people who are in lockdown have been relying on the motorcycle deliveries for their food, prescriptions and so on - would you, Mr Mayor, please exclude motorcycles of any age from the ULEZ charge so that we can get the maximum use of motorcycles at this very important time?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, thank you for raising this issue. It is an important issue. You will be aware that motorbikes are exempt from the Congestion Charge. The reason they are not exempt from the ULEZ is because that tackles air quality issues and we are keen to keep on top of the air quality issues. I am afraid we are not going to be making motorcycles exempt from the ULEZ, although they will continue to be exempt from the Congestion Charge.

When the Government asks us to widen the scope of the Congestion Charge, when the Government asks us to change the levels of the Congestion Charge, what we are not doing is bringing motorbikes into the Congestion Charge. We could have done that and that would have made the Government very happy because it would raise more money. We have not done that and it is really important to put that on record.

I am more than happy for you to meet with the TfL team to explain some of our thinking around this, but can I just say this; I know you are very well respected in this community. We have seen a large increase in collisions in the last few weeks with motorcyclists. With any influence you have, could you pass on the importance of riding safely, because I am worried about the increase in fatalities and collisions. About 30% of collisions have been motorcyclists. That is far higher than it was during the non-pandemic phase.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I would like to take you up on the offer of meeting. I have some experts who would want to meet with you. Is it possible that they could meet with you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. Chair, why don't we agree this? I will agree for the TfL team to meet up with Keith and his experts as soon as possible because it wants to be quickly. We will do as soon as possible to make that happen.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you. Moving on, Mr Mayor, if I could move on, again, this is around capacity. Could I read to you some of the messages that I am getting from taxi drivers, Mr Mayor? This is from Steve K, who is in one of my constituencies,

"I am deeply concerned regarding the latest announcements from the Mayor's Office looking at the possibility of excluding diesel taxis from a number of major streets in the city. Given that less than 30% of the industry is ZEC and because of the current

situation pertaining to COVID-19, it is unlikely that purchasing a ZEC vehicle would be financially viable given the current work levels. The same issues would also apply to renting a ZEC."

He goes on to say that he thinks many drivers will go out of work. Another resident, Gary K, said,

"The latest news is a huge worry for myself and other black cab drivers even though we have one of the only vehicles in London where social distancing can truly be practiced and is fully wheelchair accessible. We have also been badly affected due to COVID-19 and our work at the present time is almost non-existent."

Finally, from Stephanie, another resident,

"I am a 31-year-old single mother who spent a long time and effort passing the Knowledge of London to enable myself to have flexible hours to look after my one-year-old son. The new proposals which are under review will completely destroy my living, ie the closure of Waterloo and London Bridge to all vehicles except buses and cycles."

Keith Prince AM: Mr Mayor, at this time when social distancing is imperative for people's safety, London taxis have a built-in partition that keep drivers safe and passengers safe. Only London taxis can drop people with mobility impairment outside where they need to go. Even buses cannot do that, Mr Mayor.

Can you at this time, at least until this issue is over, make sure that taxis can go where buses go, Mr Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, I will make sure that the comments from the taxi drivers are passed on to TfL. That forms part of the engagement we need to have before the changes are made.

Secondly, I have already said in outline to a previous question that we are planning to allow ZEC taxis to have access to those streets where only walkers, cyclists and buses are allowed. It is not our plan at the moment to allow heavily polluting diesel taxis to access those streets.

If there are other comments from other taxi drivers, can I please ask you to let TfL have them? We are keen to hear directly from those who have views on the widening of the scope and level of charges that we are being required to do by the Government.

Keith Prince AM: Because of the time, I am going to have to leave it there, Mr Mayor. Thank you.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [16]

Question Number: 2020/2542

19 March 2020

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Mr Mayor. Following on from Assembly Member Eshalomi MP's question, as TfL have direct responsibility for the black cab trade, as you know, will you be able to offer support to them? Clearly, following your very wise statement earlier that people should stop travelling, these people are all self-employed and will suffer greatly from these measures.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This was raised at the TfL Board meeting this week. It was a telephone meeting, as you would appreciate, rather than an open one. TfL is speaking with the Government because you are right that we are really worried about those self-employed black cab drivers who will have no income, basically, or a big cut over the next period and how we can help them. We are also seeing if we can get any assistance for private hire vehicle drivers as well and minicab drivers. We are doing that work with the Government.

Clearly, unless the Government steps in, we cannot help and so we are hoping the Government will step in and help all those black cab drivers and minicab drivers who have mortgages to pay, rent to pay and on and on. It is crucial.

Keith Prince AM: Will you be able to communicate with me and I can share that with the black cab trade?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, as soon as we have some news, I am really happy to let Keith know and also make sure that all of us use our communication. All of you have really good communication channels and so you are really important people to get messages out. I will make sure that we keep you in the loop.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Thank you.

Woolwich Ferry

2020/0081

16 January 2020

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: OK, Mr Mayor. I appreciate your answer. We are short on time. I want to work with you on this. Can we have your assurance that you will work with the unions? I know that there has been a number of strikes. You did promise you would roll up your sleeves and so let us see if we can work with them.

There was something that came to me. I did speak with one of the union members, actually, and I am afraid I cannot confirm it, but I think we are both in the same place. You and I both believe that everybody should get, at minimum, the London Living Wage. I was told by this union member that they do not. Are you aware of that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There were two points. In relation to the dispute between the trade union and the private company, I would urge both sides to sort this out. You are right. They should roll their sleeves up, get around the table and resolve this.

Secondly, in relation to the Living Wage, I did receive a report in relation to an allegation that some staff were not receiving the Living Wage. I checked it out and they all are receiving the London Living Wage. However, if offline you would let me know any other specifics, I am really happy to chase that up.

Keith Prince AM: Yes, I cannot confirm, but I was surprised, and I know that we both share that view that people should be paid that. I can have your assurance that all the staff are now receiving the London Living Wage?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Just to reassure you, we received a similar complaint to the one you received that some staff were not receiving the London Living Wage. We checked it out. We have been reassured they are. If there are other things that come to light, please let us know and we will act on it straight away.

London's Bus Network

2020/0124

16 January 2020

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I wanted to particularly focus on our senior citizens and the disabled. I am indebted to my constituent, Mrs Sue Kaye, who writes to me literally every month on this and really passionately cares.

Do you recognise that when you have made the changes to the bus network, you have made it more difficult for people like Sue to get buses? They cannot use the Tube. They have issues with going down large escalators. They have to use buses. If you are cutting the frequency of a number of routes, it gives real concern. Do you believe that when TfL look at these changes, they are always looking at the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) implications?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Which bus does she use?

Tony Devenish AM: She uses a number of buses from Westminster North down to the West End.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am really happy to look offline at the particular buses that she uses, but can I just reassure you? Before any bus service changes are made, they are subject to an equality impact assessment and that looks at some of the issues that your constituent would deal with. You can reassure her that those assessments do take place. I am more than happy, if the case is raised with either the Deputy Mayor for Transport or me, to look into the particular circumstances.

ULEZ Exemptions

2019/21039

19 December 2019

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Mr Mayor, before you start, if I can just cut to the quick on this one - and I want to work with you on this one - it is really about specialist recovery vehicles, Mr Mayor. You know that you have show vehicles that you have given an exemption to. These recovery vehicles that cost £300,000 to £500,000 do not have an exemption. I wonder whether you would consider giving them an exemption. I am quite happy to meet with you or the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] to go through it in detail.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I just say? Assembly Member Prince deserves huge credit. He organised and facilitated a meeting for me to meet the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG). That meeting led to your suggestion and the MAG's suggestion of us looking at exemptions for those motorbikes that were not Euro 3. You will be pleased to know that as a result of that meeting there are hundreds of motorbikes that have now been exempted because of the testing system we discussed.

Chair, I am more than happy to facilitate a meeting between either me or the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] and Assembly Member Prince. I have found it is often sensible to meet with him offline to discuss these things because often we can work together and sometimes alleviate some of the problems that are generated through no ill will, and so I am more than happy to sort that out.

Keith Prince AM: Great. The other thing I would like to ask, Mr Mayor, is: can you give some consideration as to how we can approach whichever authority it is - it could be the Port of London Authority (PLA) - or how we can do something around marine engine emissions?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This is a big issue, Chair. I am frustrated about the lack of control over the River Thames. You will have seen the report recently. A lot of the pollution in the river is caused by vehicles on the streets.

The good news is that Deputy Mayor [for Transport] Heidi Alexander - started by Val Shawcross [CBE, former Deputy Mayor for Transport] - has probably the best relationship City Hall has had with the PLA since we were set up. It is really good. We are working collegiately with them.

Again, what I am happy to do is for Heidi to speak to Keith offline to discuss what we are doing. Also, his assistance may help because the good news is there are lots of willing partners. It is not the case that they are saying, "This is our river". They want to work with us to address this issue. The technology is there. We can sort this out.

Decisions and challenges

2019/21117

19 December 2019

Andrew Boff AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If the concern is that the Government's nutrient profiling model is inadequate and that leads to loopholes, I will lobby the Government to change its profiling model. What happens is the team at TfL uses the expert advice given by the Government. We have not invented a new model. What TfL has done is used the Government's model. By the way, the Government uses the same model for advertising on other forms of media. We have used the same model already set up. We have not set up a new model.

Central Line CCTV

2019/19790

17 October 2019

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Not at all. I am speaking specifically about the CCTV. I am not saying that that is the only thing, but I am just saying. You said that there were no plans previously. I am just asking why it has taken three years to get to the beginning of doing anything. That is all.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I beg your pardon, Chair. I thought the Assembly Member was aware of the deep-lines investment. I am happy to send him a note. The deep-lines investment is on four lines: on Central, on Piccadilly, on Bakerloo and on Waterloo and City. I thought he had had the briefing. I am sorry, Chair. I will make sure that backbenchers are properly informed of investment in the Underground.

Safer junctions for cyclists

2019/19589

17 October 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much. I welcome the initiatives you have outlined there and your Vision Zero objective: by 2041 all deaths and serious injuries should be eliminated from our transport network.

However, are TfL's actions really meeting this objective? I have here a 3,000-signature petition signed by the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) and handed to myself and other Assembly Members today expressing concerns about a number of recently changed junctions, junctions that have received serious investment from TfL, authorised by you. Do you really believe that every junction that TfL has recently invested in is meeting the standards and your ambition for Vision Zero and are fit for purpose?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I say, Chair, and put on record? You have been extremely helpful in us reaching better standards. I am really happy to get my team to speak with you and the LCC. The LCC has been fantastic as well.

If you are concerned about particular junctions, you have been really helpful in the past. Please work with the team. I am happy for you to sit down with the team. There is a real can-do

attitude there. If there is any criticism about junctions that have just been installed, let us know, but genuinely we are working incredibly hard and taking all advice from everyone to make sure that junctions are safe.

Each junction is different. That is what I would say. You cannot have a checklist approach. Continue to work with us. I am more than happy, Chair, to organise a meeting as soon as possible if there are particular junctions you are concerned about to make sure we sort them out before they are changed.

Hammersmith Bridge

2019/19831

17 October 2019

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you. Mr Mayor, are you aware that the marine engineering company Beckett Rankine has proposed a £5 million temporary bridge that could be built in just three months and run parallel to the existing bridge? How seriously are you taking this proposal?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I saw the article in the magazine earlier this week and I am sure this will be considered by those looking at the works that have been done. I will double-check and make sure that they have this but I am sure they have because if I have seen it I am sure the engineers have as well.

Tony Devenish AM: Could you please ask that the Deputy Mayor for Transport responds before the next Mayoral Question on this? Clearly we cannot wait until November 2022 just to open the existing bridge. We have to do something to improve things for our residents.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I suggest that I get TfL to respond on the merits of this application directly to the Assembly Member? Every stone is being looked under to see if there are options we can pursue. Nothing has been ruled out. I cannot comment on the technical feasibility of this particular scheme. I will make sure someone from TfL does respond to the Assembly Member.

Tube Noise
2019/19830

17 October 2019

Tony Devenish AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I know time is short. I will write a longer response to the Assembly Member to allow him to ask his supplementary question in relation to Tube noise.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor, and thank the Deputy Mayor for what work she has been doing. We have had a step change from TfL in recent months but I was very concerned with a *Ham & High* article of 9 October [2019], where a National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) source was quoted as saying they may be taking away the track fastening Pandrol Vanguard that has been so helpful. I will not ask you to answer that question now but could you write to me and tell me whether or not they are going to remove that? It would be a disaster for certain lines when actually progress has been made in recent months. Please do not take away that very useful product.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I agree to write to the Assembly Member? Tube noise is causing real misery to many of his constituents and he is concerned about the consequences of the point made. I will write to him. Also, should I copy in all --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Yes.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will copy in all the Assembly in relation to the answer, if that is OK.

Tube Noise (Supplementary) [1]
2019/19830

17 October 2019

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Pandrol Vanguard has been taken away on some of the Northern line stretches where residents were badly affected by noise, and I am already getting complaints that the noise levels are horrendous for people who live nearby. While that may have been to the benefit of the drivers, which I do not object to, and passengers, who may experience it for a very short period, the impact on residents has been horrific. TfL really needs to need to start to get to grips with this issue and not simply say, "There is no solution that we can think of at the moment". It is a very serious issue. If you add up the number of complaints I have had all together, they run into three figures. TfL is simply not taking this seriously.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, it is a well-made point. The Deputy Mayor does take it seriously, as indeed does TfL. I will make sure that point is also responded to in the letter I send to Tony Devenish [AM].

Use of hand free mobile phones

2019/17304

12 September 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: -- then it might point to a particular company and that there needs to be a focus on safety and driver training.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Also, there are perverse incentives. That is why it is useful as well. Some operators maybe have a perverse incentive to respond quickly, which can lead to -- I get the point. I will look into it to see what we can do.

Use of hand free mobile phones

2019/17304

12 September 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): One of the challenges is that the data comes to TfL from the police. You will be aware - I am speaking directly to the Assembly Member - of the progress made sometimes by these questions. The police can now disentangle black taxi cabs and PHVs. That is progress. You will remember when we first spoke, however many years ago, that was not happening.

I have to be honest, Chair. What I do not want to do is, without seeing the evidence, add additional bureaucracy on police officers who are making these stops. The key thing is to make sure somebody who is driving without due care and attention is properly penalised.

The question is what more data could they get from the individual driver, individual operator, etc. I am not sure about that. I can look into this. The other point is that there are some drivers who drive for more than one operator. I can foresee just talking to you some challenges.

I am happy to take it away and see how realistic it is, but what I do not want to do is to put additional, in inverted commas, 'red tape' on police officers who are dealing with the real mischief, which is driving without due care and attention.

Use of hand free mobile phones

2019/17304

12 September 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you for your answer. I welcome the recent Transport Select Committee's report on the use of mobile phones and, as you say, calling for tougher restrictions on drivers using mobile phones, including looking at the case for extending the ban to hands-free devices.

My questions today relate to the private hire and taxi industry. Over two years ago I asked you about this and you stated that TfL is exploring the available technology that could limit the use of electronic devices and mobile phones while driving a vehicle that is moving. I am wondering. What is the outcome of that work?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I just put on record, Chair, that this Assembly Member has been assiduous on this issue? She raised it most recently earlier this year as well. I am happy for them to brief the Assembly Member in relation to the progress made. There has been some work taking place. It is cutting-edge stuff. I am happy for her to be briefed personally about the work they have done. We are not quite ready to roll it out. We have to work with the police in relation to enforcement. There are challenges in relation to enforcement, but I am more than happy for her to be briefed in relation to this. We are not quite ready to use that. The issue is about a driver being distracted by the various devices on his or her screen, leading to driving without due care and attention.

Use of hand free mobile phones

2019/17304

12 September 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):-The recent Transport Select Committee inquiry into driving while using a mobile phone recommended that the Government should explore options for extending the ban on driving while using handheld devices to include hands-free devices. I support the recommendation that the Government should look into this issue further and it is my view that this should include drivers' use of cradled hands-free mobile phones for use other than telephone calls. I will ask the TfL officials to make themselves available to support this work.

Oral update to the Mayor's report

2019/19347

12 September 2019

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: Can you give a commitment that TfL will proactively and regularly continue to advise commuters of the progress as well as how to plan their journeys in case of delays?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Look, it is really important that TfL continues to let Londoners know of the investment I am putting into TfL, but sometimes this investment - record sums - can lead to some disruption. I will make sure, with the support of the Assembly, which I clearly have, to make sure we use TfL's remits to let people know of my investment and also of potential disruption as well.

Williams Review

Question Number: 2019/14546

18 July 2019

Florence Eshalomi AM

Florence Eshalomi AM: It would be helpful, Mr Mayor, maybe, if Boris Johnson is elected Prime Minister, we could write a strong letter reminding him of his previous commitments and outlining especially the fact that all the additional contracts and staff rotas have to be discussed with TfL if that route is going to be devolved down.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, and to reassure you, when Boris Johnson was Mayor he agreed with the Government on this deal. It was only when the Secretary of State changed from Patrick McLoughlin to Chris Grayling that the Government performed a U-turn. I am optimistic about the chances of this happening sooner rather than later with Boris Johnson, the former Mayor, as the Prime Minister.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Thank you.

Hammersmith Bridge

Question Number: 2019/14410

18 July 2019

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you. You will appreciate that transparency is important to avoid these kinds of rumours. Hammersmith and Fulham Council has refused the freedom of information (FOI) requests for the engineers reports that were done at the end of last year [2018]. The excuse was security grounds. Will you please instruct TfL, which has copies of these reports, to release the reports publicly?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not know about this. Can I look into this? I am not sure about the FOI or security grounds. Without going into the details of this bridge, there are sometimes good security reasons why we do not want reports to be made public, but I do not know enough about this particular case. Can I go away and then get somebody to respond to the Assembly Member?

Hammersmith Bridge

Question Number: 2019/14410

18 July 2019

Tony Devenish AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): TfL has been talking to the councils because it is not just Hammersmith and Fulham Council affected. There are other councils around that are affected as well. There are figures available, which I am happy to share with the Assembly Member if he wants to see them.

Hammersmith Bridge**Question Number: 2019/14410****18 July 2019****Tony Devenish AM**

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you. In terms of your August [2019] date, can you please advise us before it is going to be made public so that we can have a meeting on this? This is clearly the number-one issue for my constituents.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I will agree to ask Deputy Mayor [for Transport] Heidi Alexander to brief the relevant Assembly Members and anybody else who wants to be briefed in advance of the report being made public. The good news is that we are talking about months now rather than seasons. I always get nervous when I am advised a season by which a report will be ready. The good news is that we are being given a month, which is August [2019].

Chair, I will undertake to do that and I will make sure my office and Heidi's office speaks to at least Tony [Devenish AM], Léonie Cooper [AM] and anybody else who is concerned as well. I will send a note to those four, Caroline Russell [AM], Léonie Cooper [AM], Tony Devenish [AM], Tony Arbour [AM] and Caroline Pidgeon [MBE AM], and anybody else who is interested.

Hammersmith Bridge**Question Number: 2019/14410****18 July 2019****Tony Devenish AM**

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Can I just be clear about what we also heard in that exchange. We have heard that Assembly Member Devenish's office is going to relate to the Deputy Mayor for Transport's [Heidi Alexander] office and that there will be a meeting that Assembly Members with constituency responsibilities and Assembly Members with general interests on this matter can attend. That is going to be done as soon as possible. Is there a timeline, looking to Assembly Member Devenish, that we should try --

Tony Devenish AM: The Mayor said August [2019], which is fine by me. I am here all of August.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): This meeting should take place in August [2019]. OK?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The key ask is a reasonable ask. Before the public are told, it is not unreasonable for the Assembly to be told in a private briefing.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): We are going to have that meeting organised in August [2019]? Thank you.

Black Cab Drivers

Question Number: 2019/14345

18 July 2019

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: I was just wondering, Mr Mayor, whether you could help by using your good officers to have a word in whichever ear necessary to find out what the problem is and resolve it.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I thank the Assembly Member for raising this real concern for taxi drivers. I undertake to go away and look into this and write back to him as he has raised this. I will do that very shortly because it is a real source of concern, I bet, for those taxi drivers. I thank him for raising that and I will look into this.

Taxi Age Limit

Question Number: 2019/12305

20 June 2019

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: The question, Mr Mayor - I will just rephrase it slightly - was around if you are not convinced by the LTDA's argument around not reducing the 12 years, before you do reduce it would you agree just to allow them to put the argument directly to you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would more than happily agree with them to meet the experts in TfL.

Taxi Age Limit

Question Number: 2019/12305

20 June 2019

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: I am just conscious of time, Mr Mayor. Would you be kind enough to supply the information as to where the buses and the taxis will or will not be going?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is always evolving. What I am happy to do is to provide you with information as to what has been agreed so far, but I am hoping more councils sign up. It was 16 last week. It is 19 this week. There could be more by 22 September.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report

Question Number: 2019/14074

20 June 2019

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Mr Mayor. On Hammersmith Bridge, I appreciate there is lots of work going on, but for two and a half months it has been shut. You have basically said this morning that it will be four months before we have a way forward. This is a really key bridge. Can we try to bring that date forward so that we will be able to know what needs to be done? This is the number-one issue for my residents.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I bet it is. I can give you the commitment that TfL and the Council are going as fast they can. I will reflect back to them your comments that if they can go even faster you would appreciate that. The key things to do the work in relation to what proposals and options there are going forward with a cost as well, but I hear you loud and clear and I will pass that on.

Car scrappage scheme

Question Number: 2019/8785

16 May 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: The car scrappage scheme could be more about modal shift. London streets, as you know, are too crowded. Parking is a challenge. We need fewer cars full stop in the capital. I am wondering, will you agree to specifically look into mobility credits as part of this and also part of your lobbying of Government for a national scheme?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I say yes, Chair, and go even further and say I would be very keen for you to meet with our team to discuss any ideas you have? We are open to ideas.

Car scrappage scheme

Question Number: 2019/8785

16 May 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: You are looking at announcing that in the next few days?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In the next few weeks. I would be surprised if it was not announced in the next few weeks. We think we are almost there now. We are just tweaking it and stuff, so I would be surprised if it was not announced sometime this month.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I would welcome the contact from your team on that. I have had representations made from sole traders. If I could have that information as soon as possible, I can share that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to do so, Chair. I am happy to write to you.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much.

Hammersmith Bridge Action Plan

Question Number: 2019/9116

16 May 2019

Tony Devenish AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will make sure that TfL contacts the Assembly Member in relation to buses and rerouting, but also I will ask TfL to speak to the Council about improving comms, if there is an issue about comms. Local residents and businesses need to know what is going on.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Thank you very much.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you.

Hammersmith Bridge Action Plan

Question Number: 2019/9116

16 May 2019

Tony Arbour AM

Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman): I wonder, Mr Mayor, if you can tell us how much TfL has in its reserves.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Not to hand, but I can write to you and give you that information.

Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman): OK.

Hammersmith Bridge Action Plan

Question Number: 2019/9116

16 May 2019

Tony Arbour AM

Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman): On 11 April [2019] Assembly Member Devenish and I wrote to you and suggested that the closure of this bridge was *force majeure*, and in the light of that you should step in and take action and settle how the matter is going to be dealt with in relation to the arrangements with Hammersmith and Fulham. We have not had a reply to that letter. Do you not agree that this is *force majeure*, and under those circumstances it is appropriate for you, who are responsible for strategic matters in London, to step in?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think we want to be very careful how one defines *force majeure*. Some things are outside our control, and we have to be very careful setting precedents. I am more than happy to look into why you have not received a response.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report

Question Number: 2019/7984

21 Mar 2019

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Was the advertiser informed of the decision prior to the messages being posted by TfL on social media of that decision?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure but I am happy to --

Andrew Boff AM: If you could write to me with that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report

Question Number: 2019/7984

21 Mar 2019

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Could you write to me and confirm whether or not the advertiser was informed prior to the decision to withdraw the adverts? Could you let me know that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In the same letter I will answer that question as well, yes.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you. Did TfL meet with the advertiser to suggest alternate wording for the advertisements?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Again, I am not sure but I can --

Andrew Boff AM: If you can again write to me.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): What I can do, Chairman, is ask TfL to write to the Assembly Member answering the various questions he has raised today.

Solar power on the Transport for London estate

Question Number: 2019/6078

21 Mar 2019

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Have you considered putting solar panels on all new Crossrail 2 stations that have outside buildings and platforms to maximise their solar generating capacity?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I would be astonished if, in relation to the Crossrail 2 stations, that was not the case because there is no alternative. We have to be making sure we have more ways to reduce the carbon --

Caroline Russell AM: That is great. In that case, could you ask someone to get back to me with any details on that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I agree to write to the Assembly Member? Is that all right?

Caroline Russell AM: Yes. Thank you.

Solar power on the Transport for London estate

Question Number: 2019/6078

21 Mar 2019

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Did you look at the solar generating potential of the entire 450 miles of train tracks in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I am sorry. I do not have that information. I am really sorry. Can I write to you with that? I do not have that here.

Caroline Russell AM: Please do write to me.

Independent Article

Question Number: 2019/0459

17 Jan 2019

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Barking to Gospel Oak line, Mr Mayor, I do not know if you read this morning's article in the *City AM*, but apparently - and I am not going to lay any blame at this second in time - they are going to run out of rolling stock to run the service. Would you look into that, please, Mr Mayor, and come back to me?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, just to reassure the Assembly, I spoke to Bombardier on this matter recently and I have a meeting later on today to look into this issue.

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman): Thank you very much.

Keith Prince AM: Would you write to me, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, can I also, through you, agree to write to the Chair of the Transport Committee and other Members of the Assembly as well?

Keith Prince AM: Thank you.

Transport for London Business Plan

Question Number: 2018/5345

20 Dec 2018

Florence Eshalomi AM

Florence Eshalomi AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Can I get you to commit to continuing to work with those local councils, both Southwark and Lewisham, in terms of making sure we continue to make that case to central Government and do not wait for the last minute until they finally decide what they are doing before we have a plan in terms of improving that key route in south London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to do so, Chairman. It is very important.

Promise to triple the extent of London's protected cycle lanes by 2020

Question Number: 2018/5186

20 Dec 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Yes. It is physically protected but it does include some of the stuff that came out of the mini-Holland programme?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. Could I --

Caroline Russell AM: Do you want to get back to me on that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can tell you the definition. Is that what you are after?

Caroline Russell AM: I am going to move on to talk about your quality criteria, so I will do that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): OK. Just to reassure the Assembly, Chairman, there is a definition of what 'protected space' is. That should reassure you and I will write to you with those.

Promise to triple the extent of London's protected cycle lanes by 2020

Question Number: 2018/5186

20 Dec 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, can I suggest if it helps, because the quality criteria need to be quality criteria, for the Walking and Cycling Commissioner to meet with Caroline to discuss these issues? What I would not want to do is have quality criteria that do not satisfy the concerns that cyclists like you and others have. Would that be OK?

Caroline Russell AM: That would be great. I would very much appreciate meeting with him.

Promise to triple the extent of London's protected cycle lanes by 2020

Question Number: 2018/5186

20 Dec 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Then it says in the Plan that your quality criteria and the updated cycle design standards are going to be published next year [2019]. Can you give me a month?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I cannot give you a month.

Caroline Russell AM: A season?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, I cannot even do that, Chairman.

Caroline Russell AM: Shall we take it as December 2019?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will this afternoon let you know.

Caroline Russell AM: If you could, because if it as late as December next year you only have a few months left to deliver it.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Understood. No, I get the point and I do take it in the spirit with which you are suggesting it. Can I get back to you this afternoon?

Tram safety

Question Number: 2018/3442

22 Nov 2018

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: Can I have your commitment that all of the recommendations within your control will be delivered by March 2019? Am I correct in understanding that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, without repeating the answer --

Steve O'Connell AM: No, I do not want you to do that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): -- some of the work will not happen until December 2019. The procurement is happening now and so it depends on that. One of the answers I gave referred to December 2019, but I am happy to set out each of the things and when they will happen in a letter to you.

You are right to chivvy at TfL to make sure those that are in our gift and are just for Croydon trams happen as soon as possible. For those that are clearly for the wider UK tram industry, we will chivvy them to make sure those happen as soon as possible as well.

Steve O'Connell AM: The people of Croydon, New Addington and Sandilands would feel that it is unacceptable that it has taken so long after the recommendations in the report to implement the specific recommendations. Would you agree that the delay has been too long, Mr Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would agree that any delay is too long, but some of this is not in the gift of TfL. It is the UK tram operators. Some of it is world-leading stuff in relation to automatic braking. How do you strengthen the windows but at the same time allow them to be accessible when a tram is on its side? This is new stuff that the industry is working on, but TfL has been pushing at all times in relation to the industry and has been learning lessons from around the country. I am hopeful that that will not only lead to an improvement in relation to safety in Croydon, which it must, but also lead to improvements in relation to trams across the country as well.

Steve O'Connell AM: That is the point because we do not want this awful incident to be replicated anywhere else in the country. I look forward to you writing to me, Mr Mayor, with the details around that and also what you will be doing, in your words, to chivvy at organisations that are not directly under your remit. I look forward to that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, that is very fair.

Modernisation of London's bus services

Question Number: 2018/3339

22 Nov 2018

Navin Shah AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am very happy to organise for the Deputy Mayor [for Transport, Heidi Alexander] and also the [Managing] Director of Surface Transport [Gareth Powell] to meet with you to explain why the premise of your question does not really work for outer London.

Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge

Question Number: 2018/2976

22 Nov 2018

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It may have been discussed at the Programmes and Investment Committee, Chairman. We do not go through at a Board meeting all the details. Can I go away and come back and write to you?

Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge

Question Number: 2018/2976

22 Nov 2018

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to ask my Deputy Mayor [for Transport] Heidi Alexander to look into the concerns you have raised.

Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge

Question Number: 2018/2976

22 Nov 2018

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I am very happy for the Deputy Mayor to meet with Assembly Member Pidgeon and anybody else who wants to meet with her.

Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge

Question Number: 2018/2976

22 Nov 2018

**Len Duvall AM /
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If it is the case that the questions you have are not addressed by the Deputy Mayor [for Transport], of course I am happy to look at it again.

Learning lessons from history is really important. The definition of insanity is not to learn lessons from errors made and repeat the same behaviour again. Len, in that spirit, can I suggest a meeting? I should be looking at you, Caroline [Pidgeon MBE AM]. If you are still unhappy, come back to us and I will then see what else we can do. Does that, Chairman, address the concerns?

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman): It seems an appropriate way to proceed.

Crossrail 2 funding

Question Number: 2018/3180

22 Nov 2018

Gareth Bacon AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): To reassure you, and I will double-check to make sure, subject to that, in the modelling we have done the 50% does not include residents paying increased taxes as you alluded to, but I will double-check. Subject to me not writing to you say that I have it wrong, that is the reassurance you can have.

Gareth Bacon AM: Could you write to me and confirm that you are right? If I do not hear from you I will assume --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I will do that. We are not being facetious. We cannot publish the business case but what I can do is to give the reassurance to the Assembly Member that the business case does not include what he has alluded to, which is a legitimate concern, you can understand, people having across a potential route going from southwest to northeast of London.

Accountability - Crossrail

Question Number: 2018/2631

19 Oct 2018

Keith Prince AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is even firmer than that. Crossrail Limited was not saying there was going to be a delay even in July 2018. What I am saying to you is one of the scenarios - and would have been then - is there is a possibility of there being a delay. That is not what Crossrail Limited was saying. Because TfL wanted some assurance they asked for this additional work to be commissioned. The additional work was commissioned, I think, in July 2018, around that time. We can give you an exact date.

Accountability - Crossrail

Question Number: 2018/2631

19 Oct 2018

Keith Prince AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure if I accept the premise of your question in relation to what we knew and did not know. What I am saying is I am quite clear the first time I was told the central section was not going to open in December 2018 and would be opening in autumn 2019 was towards the end of August 2018. We can give you the exact date. I think I gave it in my session.

Knowledge of London

Question Number: 2018/2487

13 Sep 2018

David Kurten AM

David Kurten AM: One of the things that did come out of my event was the issue of redlining. I am not sure if you know what that is. The Knowledge has six stages. You have to pass all six stages. For example, you might pass stage 1, stage 2. Say you fail stage 3 then you have to go back to the beginning and do it again. But if you fail stage 3 twice, you do not just have to go back to the beginning of stage 3, you drop down to the beginning of stage 2, for example. This was a system that was brought in in 2000, when there were huge numbers of people beginning the Knowledge. I think someone had the bright idea of making it harder so that there would be fewer people graduating from the Knowledge by introducing this system where you fail twice you drop down to the level before you. Now we are in a completely different situation. We do not have 7,000 or 8,000 people starting each year. We are lucky if we get 700 or 800. That is something that students are telling me really does make it difficult and it would make it easier and fairer if that were abolished and we went back to the pre-2000 situation.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, can I, with your permission, take on board the suggestion from the Assembly Member? Any other ideas you have, I am happy for the TfL to raise this with them. I understand the importance, as you do, of quality assurance. That is one of the reasons why it would make sense to keep a level of, if certain attempts do not pass, going down a level, but not if it is simply a filter process that does not make sense at a time when there are fewer students starting the Knowledge. I would like to take that idea away but also make the offer that if there are any other ideas you have, we are very happy to work with you to make sure we try to arrest the drop in those doing the Knowledge and, as you mentioned, the drop in the number of taxi drivers in London as well.

Small businesses in railway arches

Question Number: 2018/2449

13 Sep 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: I will. Will you or your Deputy Mayor for Business [Rajesh Agrawal] meet with the Guardians for the Arches?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am always happy to make promises on behalf of my Deputy Mayors to meet groups that are --

Caroline Russell AM: Fantastic. Thank you very much. I will stop there.

Step Free Access

Question Number: 2018/2284

13 Sep 2018

Navin Shah AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Assembly Member Shah has been very successful in lobbying me to have step-free access in his constituency with the announcements already made. Also today he is showing his innovation in giving me two potential routes to have more stations step-free in his patch, including Stanmore. I know Stanmore is step-free to the platform but has accessibility issues.

I will look at both your ideas. One is whether this can be one of the seven left in relation to step-free from TfL funding, and also to see whether we can use development opportunities to get step-free access. Chairman, why do I not, through you, agree for the TfL team to liaise directly with Assembly Member Shah in relation to these options and also to keep him involved in relation to the work it is doing on scheme design, planning requirements and any potential opportunities for Stanmore to benefit from full street-to-train step-free access?

Safer junctions in London for cyclists and pedestrians

Question Number: 2018/2072

13 Sep 2018

Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you. London has far too many unsafe junctions for both pedestrians and cyclists. An example is the Holborn gyratory, where Dr [Peter] Fisher was killed just last month. This junction has claimed the lives of four cyclists in the last five years. Now, your predecessor promised to fix 33 of the most dangerous junctions in London during his tenure and he failed. You pledged to complete these in the mayoral campaign. By what date will these junctions be safe under your watch?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Do you mean the Better Junctions programme that the previous Mayor announced?

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Yes.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have a timeline for those. There is a list of all of them with the timelines. I can send them if that is easier.

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman): Yes, I would rather you did it that way.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: That would be helpful.

London's Bus Mileage

Question Number: 2018/1965

19 Jul 2018

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: When will we see the increase in bus kilometrage - I am not sure why we measure it in kilometrage, but we do - in outer London? When can we expect to see these additional buses or miles driven or whatever it is?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If you remember, at previous MQTs Florence Eshalomi [AM] asked me a question about this and I could not give her an answer in relation to mileage in different parts of London, and I was frustrated by this. What I promised I would do is ask TfL, by the next business plan, to give you an idea of different parts of London.

Delivery of protected cycle lanes

Question Number: 2018/1435

21 Jun 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Mr Mayor, I asked you about the six new cycling routes that you announced, the ones that you announced in January. When are we going to see a detailed schedule for their delivery?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I thought you had asked about segregated cycle lanes, but I will move on to those. I can send you the letter that gives you the timeline or I can read out the brief I have here.

Caroline Russell AM: If you can send me a written answer about when you are going to have a schedule for the delivery of those six new routes, that would be great.

Rail Devolution

Question Number: 2018/1593

21 Jun 2018

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Mr Mayor, I would like to ask you about the Great Northern franchise. It is something I have raised with you before because it runs through my constituency of Enfield and Haringey. Even before the timetable fiasco I was having regular complaints about cancelled and delayed trains. It is a line I use every day to get into work. I was very heartened last year when the Gibb Report said devolution to TfL should happen immediately. I am therefore disappointed they have not yet made that decision.

In the statement to Parliament, [The Rt. Hon] Chris Grayling [MP, Secretary of State for Transport] said he is talking to TfL and also that there is a business case for putting the Great Northern line in with a new franchise with the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), which was just announced as the new operator for the failing East Coast line. That seems to be repeating the mistakes of the past when this line was put with Thameslink and was criticised then for being too big. Do you agree with that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I agree. Do not forget that once a new contract has been given it means for x years we cannot touch it without having to pay compensation. Therefore, my understanding from DfT was that the remapping of the Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern franchise will begin later on this year. You are right, this is a crucial piece of work to see how the franchise could be separated out and improved for your commuters and Londoners. It is really important the Government follows those recommendations.

As a consequence of your question I will speak to TfL and chase up what progress has been made. What will be unacceptable is if, inadvertently, this is included in a package for a franchise that is signed off for the next five or ten years.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you for that. I have written to Chris Grayling again earlier this month urging him to do that. The franchise is due to be handed over to - I presume - a new operator in 2021. When you talk to TfL it would be good if we could ask them if they could bring that forward because my residents are really fed up with the delays.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will take both those issues up offline and speak to TfL about actioning those.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you.

Motorcyclists

Question Number: 2018/1351

21 Jun 2018

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: You are investing, for pushbikes, around about £154 million a year to help pushbikers be safer around London. Can you tell me, Mr Mayor, or you can give me a written answer if you like, how much you are spending on motorcycle safety?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The reason why there is a spike in cyclist-specific budgets is because of the new infrastructure aimed at encouraging cyclists. The roads that motorcyclists use are roads that are used by other vehicles as well, so it is part of a package of measures around Vision Zero. On specific motorcycle measures I can give you some examples. The cost of motorcycle training interventions in 2017/18 is £280,000. There are a wide range of initiatives and budgets that deliver safety benefits to motorcyclists that is encompassed in all road user improvements. I am happy to write to the Assembly Member to disaggregate some of this where it is possible.

Motorcyclists

Question Number: 2018/1351

21 Jun 2018

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Mr Mayor, there is a lot more that I need to raise but we have run out of time. Can I just ask you, therefore, Mr Mayor, will you agree to one of our wonderful meetings with you and me and the representatives from the London Motorcycle Industry for them to discuss their concerns with you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course.

Bus services in London

Question Number: 2018/1117

17 May 2018

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: Thank you very much. On the consultation point, I am pleased that over the years I have been here to see an improvement in the way TfL has worked with local communities and I welcome the new Partnerships Team.

On a strategic point, I will not specially plead on individual routes, but for some considerable time we have been talking about the rebalancing of bus services from inner London to outer London, particularly zones 5 and 6, which many of us represent, where they are overdependent on bus services because there are no alternatives. I regret that over a period of time we have not seen an improvement. We have seen strategies and words about it, but, Mr Mayor, can I urge you to press a fast-forward button on what I call the "rebalancing" of bus services away from zones 1 and 2, where there are plenty of alternatives, out to zones 5 and 6? Can I have your response to that, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You are right. We need to show that we are doing that. Later on this year when the next plan for transport is published - and Assembly Member Eshalomi also raised this issue last time - we will give you details of the movement so that you

can be reassured that we are seeing more bus kilometres in outer London than in inner London, as is the plan.

Steve O'Connell AM: I look forward to that, Mr Mayor. Thank you.

Metropolitan Line Delays

Question Number: 2018/0753

22 Mar 2018

Susan Hall AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You are right, it is frustrating because every day when a commuter reaches the station or checks on their app there is uncertainty in getting home from work or they are late to work and it can cause problems at work. I am frustrated and have seen some of the examples on social media about commuters being inconvenienced. It is not good enough in one of the best cities in world. That is why, in the meantime until we have the modernisation, I will keep an eye on this, as I said in my answer.

Thank you for raising this. I will make sure that TfL does not wait until 2023. Hopefully commuters will see some respite sooner rather than later. It is deeply frustrating for many commuters.

Susan Hall AM: Thank you. I will continue to bring up issues that residents are cross about.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Please.

Susan Hall AM: In the meantime, perhaps you could have a word with TfL. Had it answered this question in the first place 40-odd days ago, I would not have had to bother you with it.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is not good enough. Can I follow that up and get back to you about why that happened?

Susan Hall AM: Thank you.

Tube Noise

Question Number: 2018/0782

22 Mar 2018

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you. You also mentioned the figure of 42 decibels in your answer. I know this has to be checked by your experts, but the email response from my residents after Mr Wild's email talked about the figure going up from 38 and now it is at 43. We can query over decibels, but would you arrange for your Deputy Mayor to meet with me on the site with residents, please, so that we can take this further. I know we all have to shout louder because this is a major issue across London, but, while some areas have improved in recent months and years, clearly this area - Holland Park, Notting Hill - has not improved. I really need to get to the bottom of this.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to give that commitment. Can I also just say this? My understanding - and like you implied, I am not an expert here - is that some of this could be to do with where there are more basements than other areas. It is to do with vibrations. I am not pretending to be an expert, but I looked into this. Why is it that sometimes the noise in decibel levels is not as high as it is elsewhere and the impact felt is much greater? It was explained to me that it is to do with the vibrations and where there are more basement excavations. I am happy to give you that commitment to arrange for the relevant people to go and meet with you and the residents to listen to what you are talking about.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Tube Noise

Question Number: 2018/0782

22 Mar 2018

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Would you, Mr Mayor, at least get TfL to get a move on in relation to the sound barrier?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am hoping that one of my team has made a note of that and we will chase that up, yes.

Tube Noise

Question Number: 2018/0782

22 Mar 2018

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you again for that meeting that you attended. The issue here, though, is that for my residents, it is more of noise rather than vibration. They are suffering some 50-plus decibels, which is horrendous at night. No one is criticising TfL - and it is worth putting this on record - for the efforts they have made because they really have tried very hard and have tried many innovative ideas to try to suppress the noise. One of the things that they are going to be doing in relation to my residents is putting up a wall like a sound barrier.

Can I firstly ask you, Mr Mayor, to encourage TfL to do that as soon as they possibly can? Secondly, Mr Mayor, if that fails, can we please talk about what other remedial work can be done on the residents' properties in order to mitigate these issues?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, what I can commit to is to make sure TfL does what it can to reduce the noise. One of the ideas that they were looking into was reducing the speed of trains, which may seem an obvious idea. It came from one of your residents, I think.

Keith Prince AM: It did.

RAF Northolt

Question Number: 2017/5288

14 Dec 2017

Peter Whittle AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am absolutely clear that the role of Royal Air Force (RAF) Northolt should not change and should not be used for more commercial flights. This is reiterated in my new draft London Plan, which states that any significant shift in the mix of operations using an airport should be refused.

The Government has announced that RAF Northolt will close for some months in 2018 to undertake improvements to the runway and extend its life. However, I am not aware that this is linked to any proposals to increase the number of commercial flights using the airport, nor that any such plans are in development. If the Assembly Member has any information to the contrary, I would be grateful if he could share this.

In light of his question and the public concern, I have written to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to seek clarification about the scope of proposed works and seek assurances that this will not permit increased commercial flying. Of course, I will share the response as soon as I receive it.

Bus casualty reduction target

Question Number: 2017/4308

16 Nov 2017

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you Mr Mayor, and it is really good to see you being so ambitious, you know, to get things down by 70% by 2022 and also to hear you saying you want things to get better every single year because, taking a Vision Zero approach, means being able to put your hand on your heart and say that you are doing absolutely everything possible now to prevent any death and injury on our roads, and I am going to now ask you a few specific things into a bit of detail about things that you could be doing now. So, first of all, intelligent speed adaptation. You told me back in June that intelligent speed adaptation would begin to be introduced on buses later this year, so how many buses have now been fitted with this potentially life saving technology?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am about to write to you but the note says here, from December I say it begins, but I am happy to give you a note on a monthly basis about progress made.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you. Then, finally, on transparency. I gather TfL and the bus operators had a London bus safety summit this week. Transport committee members were blocked from attending. What was it they were discussing that needed to be kept behind closed doors?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have got no idea. I am happy to write to the Assembly Member.

TfL Ombudsman

Question Number: 2017/3467

14 Sep 2017

Tony Devenish AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): On customer services, TfL has made huge progress in relation to improving the quality of experience of public transport users from the Tube, London Overground, buses and black taxis as well. They have a team of people who respond to concerns raised by members of the public. Some of the changes that have been commented about over the last few days around King's Cross Station and the platforms have been as a result of TfL responding to some of the issues raised. TfL is not perfect, but bearing in mind the numbers of people who use public transport - more than 5 million use the Tube on an average basis every day and record numbers use buses - they do a good job making sure they provide the best service possible to public transport users.

I compare and contrast the service we give to our customers to the suburban lines. Some of the suburban train operating companies, because they have a monopoly, think they can do anything and the customer will have to use their service. That attitude does not apply in TfL. We make sure that even though sometimes a community will have no alternative, we are going to provide a good quality service.

Tony Devenish AM: Would you agree that more needs to be done? Comparing yourself to one of those train services or perhaps BT is not exactly a high bar, really.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is always more that can be done, but you are criticising us for being better than the others and asking us to compare ourselves to a comparator who is perfect. I am happy if you want to suggest a comparator for us to compare ourselves to and I will happily do so, but one of the things the TfL Board provides is that sort of analysis of not just numbers - very important for fare revenues - but also quality of experience they have.

One of the reasons, for example, we have improved accessibility in stations - I have invested taxpayers' money, £200 million, to make more stations accessible - is the experience of commuters who are disabled. That is an example of us addressing customer service.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you for the challenge. I will come back to you on the organisations that you should be benchmarking yourself against.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure.

Tony Devenish AM: I would be interested also if you could come back to me in writing with the organisations that the TfL Board are already benchmarking themselves with, please.

Night Tube (1)

Question Number: 2017/3164

10 Aug 2017

Keith Prince AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will give you a simple example why triple-glazing is not the panacea; in summer months people have the windows open. We have to address the issue at the root of the problem, which is having trains that are less noisy.

What I am happy to do is for my Deputy Mayor to meet with you and discuss the particular solutions we have around this. We should not pretend - I am not suggesting you are doing this in a malevolent way - that triple-glazing is a panacea. Obviously, particularly in the summer months, it is not.

Keith Prince AM: I accept that. Mr Mayor, you are quite correct, if a solution could be found trackside that would be preferable. However, it has been admitted that there is not one at the moment.

If I can just get clarification, Mr Mayor, is your offer that I can meet with the Deputy Mayor and some of the residents? Is that your offer, or are you offering to meet with them yourself?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course we can organise that. Of course, it is only right and proper that your residents should be there as well. I am happy to do that.

Keith Prince AM: Your offer is that I meet with the Deputy Mayor and not with you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to meet with you as well but she is on top of this more than I am. I get my information from officers and my Deputy Mayor but I am happy to meet with you. It may take a little while.

Keith Prince AM: With residents, Mr Mayor.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, of course. It may take longer but I am happy to do it, of course I am.

Mayoral support for ambitious local walking and cycling schemes

Question Number: 2017/2787

13 Jul 2017

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Just thinking about the quality of the schemes and making sure they are really good quality, some joint TfL and borough schemes that are coming through the pipeline now are not consistent with the Healthy Streets Approach. For instance, there is a new plan for Fiveways junction in Croydon, which came out this week. Cyclists are being asked to move out of a cycle lane and merge with three lanes of fast-flowing traffic. There is a little note on the diagram that says, "Ahead cyclists to merge with vehicles". There is no protected space for cycling going from north to south. This is not really a cycling project for people who are aged 8 to 80. You would not want your 12- or 13-year-old cycling to school to be coping with that. People on Twitter have been wondering if the TfL modelling team actually got the Healthy Streets memo.

Are you aware that there are schemes that are not compliant with Healthy Streets that are being put out to consultation? What will you do about that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Steve [O'Connell AM] is not in his seat but I will speak to the Assembly Member and also Dr Will Norman to look into that particular case. I do not know enough about it.

Use of apps by taxi and private hire drivers

Question Number: 2017/1683

22 Mar 2017

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you for your answer. I am returning to this issue again. There is no doubt that interacting with apps is routine for private hire and some taxi drivers. In particular, as we have discussed before, the Uber app effectively forces drivers to read and interact with the app whilst driving. You have mentioned just now the TfL pages, but the Essex Police have issued some really clear guidance on the use of mobile phones and apps. In it, they specifically say in their list that if you work for Uber and the like, you cannot touch a phone when the engine is on. You cannot accept work while you are on the move. I am wondering whether you would ask the MPS to do some similar clear guidance, which could then be issued to all private hire and licensed taxi drivers in London.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am always happy to pinch good ideas, but I will ask the Deputy Mayor for Transport to work with both Police and Crime and Transport [Committees] to look at it. If it is a good idea, we will use it. Yes.

Private Hire Drivers English Test

Question Number: 2017/1997 **22 Mar 2017**

Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: Yes. I fully appreciate everything you said, Mr Mayor, and I am not trying to tempt you into any kind of legal indiscretion that could cause some problems down the line. The Deputy Mayor for Transport, as I understand, has met with several of the representative bodies. The reason this question is before you now is because the representative bodies are not yet convinced that the Deputy Mayor for Transport is going to push the issue in the way that they feel it should be, which is why I have asked specifically if you would be prepared to meet with them.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to.

Reviewing Cycle Superhighways

Question Number: 2017/2053 **22 Mar 2017**

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: One factor I would be very keen for you to include, please, would be noise pollution, particularly motorists honking their horns because they are stuck in congestion. It is a big issue for my residents, particularly at the Embankment and at Hyde Park. If we could include that, that would be great.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): To be clear, the study is looking into congestion and the causes and solutions. I am not sure if honking the horns -- I know that it causes unhappiness to your residents. Can I think about how we can address that issue in relation to reducing the disturbance caused to your residents? I am not sure a study is the answer. Let me think about what is the answer.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you. Finally, could I ask that the Deputy Mayor for Transport meets with me onsite at Hyde Park and the Embankment to look at these issues?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am always happy to offer my Deputy Mayors to meet with anybody. It is one of the joys of being the Mayor. Can I also suggest that the Walking and Cycling Commissioner, Will Norman, joins Valerie [Shawcross CBE] with you as well? It would be useful.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Fare Evasion

Question Number: 2016/4317

16 Nov 2016

Florence Eshalomi AM

Florence Eshalomi AM: One of the other things, which again you touched on earlier this year in January, Mr Mayor, was the fact that a number of stations are still being left open with the ticket barriers and obviously, the statistics from Bromley-By-Bow where, 60% of the time, the station is left opened. Again, what action do you think we can take to ensure ticket stations are always staffed, to make sure we are not losing in excess of £50 million to fare evasion?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is a ticket office review taking place right now by TravelWatch who are doing it. Once we have had that review, we will wait and see what their recommendations are vis-à-vis their review but you are right; we can tie this in to getting more revenues in from lawful fare payers. Why do I not write to you once we have that review in to explain what additional things we will be doing as a consequence to address your point about Bromley-By-Bow and others, with barriers routinely left open and people going through?

Cab Trade

Question Number: 2016/3610

19 Oct 2016

David Kurten AM

David Kurten AM: Back in 2015 it was reported in The Guardian that you said: "You cannot take shortcuts with Londoners' safety. I am putting private hire companies on notice. If I am elected as Mayor, it will be one strike and you are out. Even if just one of your drivers is found not to have gone through the right checks or to hold legitimate documentation, then your licence to operate in the capital will be suspended immediately." In the light of many issues of false documentation, in terms of medical checks, insurance and other things, how many operator licences have you revoked or suspended?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not have the information here. I am happy to write to you to give you that answer. You will appreciate that TfL is currently being challenged in the courts in relation to a number of the proposals I have in my Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan. I am happy to write to you with the numbers.

Cycle superhighways success

Question Number: 2016/3009

14 Sep 2016

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Could I ask you about Cycle Superhighway 11? This has proved very controversial and divisive locally, with thousands of views both for and against. You have told TfL to continue to work on Cycle Superhighway 11, an instruction that I very much support, but there are quite a few issues still to be worked through such as the effect on bus services, relocated bus stops, traffic at Swiss Cottage, Regent's Park gate closures and the impact when combined with High Speed 2 (HS2) construction traffic. Once TfL has firmed up its plans, will you arrange a further short period of consultation so that the public can comment on this further detail?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, Assembly Member Dismore has summarised in a minute a very complicated issue. Actually, it is even more complicated than he suggests. I am very happy to do what we can to make sure that we win the trust and confidence of Londoners. Val Shawcross [Valerie Shawcross CBE, Deputy Mayor for Transport] has already, as you are aware, met with the local campaigners. I will make sure she does what she can to make sure that local stakeholders feel they have been listened to.

Andrew Dismore AM: We will have further consultation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is for Val to discuss what else she can do in relation to making sure people are on board. She has already been to public meetings and met campaigners, but I will speak to Val about the best way to ensure your constituents feel listened to.

TfL Running the Southern Rail Network

Question Number: 2016/3143

14 Sep 2016

Gareth Bacon AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We have a team of highly skilled, experienced and knowledgeable operational managers who could go and help with unparalleled experience in running London Underground, London Overground and other relevant operations. This experience can be redirected on a temporary basis to ensure improvements to Southern Rail services. Those are the words of the Commissioner [for Transport for London] and I confirm them today.

Gareth Bacon AM: How many people are in that team?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Because the Government turned us down, I do not have the numbers to hand, but I can write to you in relation to how the big team is.

Frequent Flyer Levy

Question Number: 2016/2411

20 Jul 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, following on from your support for London City Airport, perhaps you could let me know the maximum number of flights that you would support being allowed in and out of London City Airport?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure, I will do that, but just to remind you, Chairman, Assembly Member Boff, there is no application to increase the number of flights. The only application was in relation to the planes with bigger wings that could park there, but I am happy to respond in relation to that. My understanding is that it has not yet met the upper limit of flights that it has permission for, but I will write back to the Assembly Member with proper numbers.

Andrew Boff AM: Could you also, Mr Mayor, share with me not only the data with regard to air quality and with regard to London City Airport but also how that data is collected as well?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure. I will try to find out --

Andrew Boff AM: The methodology of collection of that --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will try to get hold of what I can, Chairman.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you.

Strike Action

Question Number: 2016/2754

20 Jul 2016

Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: OK, thank you, Mr Mayor. At the first Mayor's Question Time (MQT), I submitted a written question. The reason it was written was because you had only just got your feet under the table and it would have been unfair to submit a verbal question. I asked you what you would do to ensure that there would be zero days of public transport strikes, which you had promised during the campaign. Your written response was along the lines of what you have just said:

"There were twice as many strikes under my predecessor as there were under the previous Mayor. The best way to avoid strikes is to ensure both sides sit round the table. Unlike my predecessor, I promise to maintain a constructive dialogue with the trade unions in order to keep London's transport network moving."

What you have just said sounds good. It sounds like a pledge, rather than things you have done. What have you actually done so far?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In relation to ...?

Gareth Bacon AM: Your industrial relations policy.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have spoken to those who represent our public transport workers.

Gareth Bacon AM: Who have you spoken to?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can send you a list, many of the trade unions - I think all of them - and we can send you a list. There is no problem at all.

Strike Action

Question Number: 2016/2754

20 Jul 2016

Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: Londoners will be quite surprised by that answer, Mr Mayor. They will be sort of half pleased with your announcement this morning, but they would be rather disappointed with the second half of that. Shortly after you were elected, a week after you were elected, the General Secretary of the RMT union issued what he called “an agenda for talks” in which he stated, and I am quoting him directly:

“The RMT has set out the issues and the sheer scale of the financial and capacity crisis facing the capital that leaves London facing its biggest transport threat since the Blitz.”

He then went on to threaten a wave of industrial relations. Leaving aside the ludicrously exaggerated language, the threat is very clear. In the same week that TfL announced that the long-awaited Night Tube would be launched in August 2016, the RMT announced that a ballot of maintenance and engineering staff working for Tube lines had voted in favour of strike action thanks to - and again, I am quoting here - “major unresolved issues” over pensions and performance-related pay. What action have you taken with regard to that threat?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The general threat, you mean?

Gareth Bacon AM: The threat to the Night Tube.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Night Tubes are on course to start on 19 August 2016, as I promised. We are on schedule and I am looking forward to being on the first Night Tube on 19 August. If you remember, there are two lines beginning on 19 August; the other three later on this year. Again, to my knowledge there are no “issues”, but I am happy to keep you in the loop about any problems we have in case you may be able to help on that. I cannot foresee any.

Crowdfunding Transport

Question Number: 2016/2760

20 Jul 2016

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: [--]

Can I just ask you again, on this question of my suggestion around crowdfunding, if you would be open to a meeting with your Deputy Mayor for me to explain perhaps a bit more fully? From the answer you gave, which was not completely dismissive, I suspect that you may not fully understand how we propose the funding to be effected. It would not mean an extra tax on people. I would welcome a meeting with you and the Deputy Mayor to explain a bit more fully. If after that meeting you do not like it, well, that is another matter.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am always very happy to agree for my Deputy Mayors to meet with Assembly Members. If you want the meeting to happen sooner rather than later, I suggest Deputy Mayor Shawcross. I say this with humility: if you want to meet with me as well, it might take a bit longer. I am happy to do whatever suits your wish. I am always keen to meet with Assembly Members if I can.

Unacceptable Tube Noise

Question Number: 2016/2815

20 Jul 2016

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Chairman. Mr Mayor, I do not want you to misunderstand. The people of Redbridge definitely welcome the introduction of the Night Tube and we know that there may be issues around antisocial behaviour. The issue of antisocial behaviour via the Tube itself that is the problem? Assembly Member Devenish touched on the fact that the World Health Organisation has a limit in the evening of about 40 decibels. I was with a constituent a few days ago and the reading from the trains going by there was 60 decibels, which during the day is acceptable but, clearly, at night is not.

I am just wondering what impact assessment TfL did prior to the introduction of the Night Tube?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Night Tube has not been introduced yet – it will be on 19 August - but we are doing work in relation to making sure that we minimise any disruption caused. For example, the issue that you are talking about, with respect, is happening before there is a Night Tube. I will make sure that the TfL team looks into your complaint about what is happening now. What we do not want to happen is, unintentionally, issues around noise are all pointing towards the Night Tube when in fact these are problems that are taking place now. The point about Assembly Member Devenish's issues raised, which I have looked into, was that these are complaints taking place now and that is why we have to try to sort them out. I am keen to make sure that TfL goes and meets with you and visits the site to make sure that it can address that now.

Keith Prince AM: With respect, Mr Mayor, people who have bought houses with the Tube at the back of them understood what they were buying into. Yes, you are correct that the 60 decibels is happening now, but during the daytime it is less intrusive. It is the fact that the Night Tube will still be pumping out that 60 decibels in the evening that is the issue for my residents, not so much what is happening now because they knew what they were buying into. As I said, they are not against the Night Tube, Mr Mayor, but they are wondering why no assessment was done and why they were not consulted about this issue in relation to the Night Tube itself.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): On that, Chairman, just to be clear, the briefing I have is that in February 2015 TfL was working with environmental health officers in order to address the impact of these issues. I am happy to write to you to set out what they have been doing up until the recent past.

Unacceptable Tube Noise

Question Number: 2016/2815

20 Jul 2016

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): I wonder if I could ask, through you, for the Deputy Mayor for Transport to meet with a number of us who have casework and are meeting with groups of residents - and have been for some time - so that we can get everybody on the same page? This nuisance is intermittent. You might think that you have fixed it and we get no casework for a couple of months and then it comes back. It is part of the way of living in London with the system that we have.

What residents would like is for TfL to show that it recognises that and then to respond as quickly as possible. I am not clear from what you have said where we are with this. Can we ask through you for a meeting with the Deputy Mayor? I know for a fact that we have maybe about 30 people on a list who are waiting for a response from the Deputy Mayor and, indeed, picked up that Mr Devenish was asking this question today.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure. Val has been working assiduously in this area and so I am sure that she will be keen to meet with you to make sure you and your constituents are reassured about the steps that we are taking. Again, Chairman, through you, can I agree to do that?

Nominee Passes Review

Question Number: 2016/2257 22 Jun 2016 Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: You mentioned in the answer to the question initially that it would be relatively modest "savings" - and, again, you used the word - for TfL if all nominee passes were taken out. What figure has TfL given you for that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not have it to hand, but I am sure we can find that out.

Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf cycling and pedestrian bridge

Question Number: 2016/1334 25 May 2016 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: If you are going to build this bridge, which it sounds like you are committed to doing if you can, will you also consider extending the cycle hire scheme out to Bermondsey and Rotherhithe?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not see any reason why we should not.

South Eastern Franchise

Question Number: 2016/1658 25 May 2016 Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: Can I potentially request a meeting with you privately to push forward this? It is something that will be a really key win. The long-suffering passengers of South Eastern trains in my constituency will be absolutely delighted to hear you are pushing this forward. Can we get a date in the diary to do that as soon as possible?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Mr Chairman, I am very happy to.

Gallows Corner

Question Number: 2016/1690 25 May 2016 Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Would you agree to accompany me to Gallows Corner to see for yourself what the issues are? We can then also explain to you some of the solutions we would like to put forward, some of which TfL has seen and say are achievable.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, we will do it.

Policing

London Demonstrations

Question Number: 2020/3773

15 October 2020

David Kurten AM

David Kurten AM: You mentioned 20 August. Let us look at last week because last weekend there was a rally of 3,000 Shia Muslims gathered in Marble Arch for Ashura and marched up Edgware Road. Then, on Sunday, the next day, there was another gathering where, again, a large crowd of Shia Muslims gathered at Marble Arch for Arba'een and marched down Park Lane.

Are you saying, then, on the basis of what you have just said, that large gatherings should not be allowed? Why were those demonstrations allowed and why did you not say anything about those whereas you did say something about the 26 September freedom rally?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not have those facts with me, Chair. I am happy to take them away and get a response sent to the Member offline.

Crime during lockdown

Question Number: 2020/3667

15 October 2020

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: As you say, crime is rising. It is coming back to pre-COVID levels. This morning I spoke to a group of Somali mothers who were very concerned about knife crime in particular and the steep rise we have seen since lockdown as measures were eased. Is there anything in particular that you can do to help fight that particular type of crime?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There are a lot of things we are doing particularly towards that: the work we are doing with the Young Londoners Fund, giving young people constructive things to do, the work we are doing with the VRU, treating crime, particularly knife crime, as a public health issue. We had a very good meeting yesterday with the Partnership Reference Group including a presentation from an excellent group that has done work around therapeutic interventions around young people, families and those who work in the area.

We are also, you will be interested to know, speaking to colleagues around the country and around the world. Around the world during lockdown there was a reduction but also around the world, I am afraid, there was an increase - a spike, if you like - after lockdown was lifted and so we are speaking to them as well. You will be particularly keen to report back to colleagues you spoke to about the work around county lines, the rescue and respond work. We have done really good work, not just the National Crime Agency (NCA) but the MPS, speaking to police forces around the country, particularly around young people who are vulnerable. The rescue and response team had £3 million pounds originally from City Hall and an additional fund from me of £800,000 for working with individuals involved in gangs, young men and boys

and young girls as well who get involved in county lines. I am really happy to offline let you know of some of the work we are doing there, which is really encouraging.

Policing and the easing of lockdown regulations

Question Number: 2020/2347

16 July 2020

Len Duvall OBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In relation to domestic abuse, as ever, a good idea. What would be even more powerful - and I will ask my office to liaise with you and also with the various groups - is if I could write to the MPs and say, "This is a cross-party view of City Hall". It makes it much more powerful. What I will do is, through the usual channels, speak to the various Group leaders to see if they are agreeable to me saying, "This is the view of City Hall". That would really make the letter more powerful. You are right about the importance and the difference that a register can make.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [5]

Question Number: 2020/2096

18 June 2020

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you. No concerns there, Chair. Will you consider adding social class to the list of those groups that need redress and representation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a really good plan. I am sure the Commission will look into that. The Commission - not me but the 15 independent members and the two Deputy Mayors - will look into this. We are working on terms of reference but I will make sure that your suggestion is passed on to those working on the terms of reference.

Andrew Boff AM: Will the Commission that will be looking into diversity be politically diverse itself?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I certainly hope so. It is really important that we properly reflect our city's diversity and that includes the point you referred to in relation to politics as well.

Andrew Boff AM: Along with adding to the public domain, will you consider removing monuments from it, and who will decide what the criteria for considering removal will be?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This was your original question, Assembly Member Boff, which I sought to respond to. None of this has been worked out because it is really important to take on board various views. You will have strong views, I am sure. Please feel free to feed in your views to the two Deputy Mayors and also to the independent members once they have been appointed. There will be an open advertising process for the vacancies. You can apply to be one of those members but I am sure others will as well. People will apply to be independent members of the Commission and the terms of reference will be worked on. If there are any strong views you have in relation to the points you have raised, please feel free to feed them in.

David Kurten AM: There has been another high-profile case in November [2019] at Speaker's Corner, and you may be aware of the case of Roland Parsons, another Christian street preacher, who has been attending Speaker's Corner for about 20 years, peacefully saying what he has to say and putting up a sign to back up what he wants to say. On 10 November [2019], the police asked him to take down a sign which said, "The blood of Christ". He has had that sign up for many, many years, but suddenly, after 20 years, the police targeted him, asked for his name and address and asked him to remove that sign. I do not know why that was. I do not know why the people in Speaker's Corner who were policing that did that, but what are your thoughts on that? Should that have happened, and was that reasonable and proportionate?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am not aware of the full details of that case. What I can do is look into it and write to the Assembly Member in relation to what I can ascertain from MOPAC and the MPS. I have been quite clear in my answer. I think Article 10 in the Human Rights Act [1998] is quite clear in relation to freedom of expression and freedom of speech. There are obviously nuances involved in relation to the job of the police to make sure nobody is breaking the law. I do not know about the individual circumstances of the case. I will look into the case and write to the Assembly Member.

David Kurten AM: Great. Thank you, Mr Mayor. I want to raise another case which has also been quite high-profile and has received a lot of media attention. That is the case of Christian Hacking, who was another Christian. He prayed, engaged in prayer, outside the abortion clinic in Ealing where there is a so-called buffer zone, a public space protection order, which you supported 100% the setting-up of this buffer zone. When it was written, it went well beyond banning people speaking, to actually banning and criminalising prayer. It is astounding that there is an area of London where prayer is now a criminal activity and Christian Hacking was a person who was arrested by the police. Apparently, the procedure was not implemented properly, and then the case was dropped by the police. What are your thoughts on that? Should prayer be criminalised?

David Kurten AM: I would appreciate if you could look into that case. The arrest was actually wrongful. He was not given a caution before he was arrested, as far as I can see by looking into the facts of the case. If you would look into that and ensure that police follow proper procedures in that case --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, why don't I agree to look into both of those cases raised by the Assembly Member? If there are any more facts, feel free to email my office and I will be happy to look into those.

Knife Crime

2019/21069

19 December 2019

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Thank you for your answer. Just before I continue, can I bring to your attention Online Watch Link (OWL)? I am not trying to score any points here. I just want to make a point. OWL is a fantastic community organisation that works across ten boroughs across London. It is effectively an app that allows people to do neighbourhood watch on a huge industrial scale. Recently it has been involved in helping to solve a murder through the alerts that it can send out. OWL contacted MOPAC some time ago to secure some funding. MOPAC agreed to fund it until March to keep it going. Part of that conversation was, if it does not receive the funding in time, it will be gone by Christmas. MOPAC agreed to this but has not provided the funding.

I just wonder if I could encourage you to give MOPAC an almighty shove to help this happen because, if they do not, OWL will go under by Christmas. The point here is that they have already agreed to the funding and so that conversation has been had. It is just that the payment of the funding would be very useful at this point.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for raising that. Chair, can I just ask the Assembly Member to just email my office and I will look into that this afternoon?

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you. I will do that. Thank you very much.

Sanction Detention Rates

2019/20862

19 December 2019

Len Duvall AM

Len Duvall AM: Chair, I am really pushed for time but I want to praise the BBC investigation that took place during the General Election and may not have been given sufficient coverage. It is, again, one of those issues. It is the release under investigation issue. I think not in the last year but in the previous year from when it was first introduced, 2017, we had over 46,000 crimes that were released under investigation.

The real issue for me – and you have instituted this, you have put it in your Police and Crime Plan – is that we want bail conditions, where there are conditions, to be part of tackling that drive in violent crime and sexual crime. We heard a number of stories of what happened outside and I think they are a scandalous aspect of that. I do not want to bring the police into disrepute – I think they work hard on behalf of our communities – but here in London, if those figures are correct, we could be sitting on a big problem.

The big problem for me is that we have a separate bail and custody command from people working on the ground. There is nothing that drives morale lower, in terms of serving police officers, than if you think you are arresting people and bringing people to book and actually they are being sent out the door the next day, particularly when they are a threat to our community and there are no conditions placed on it. Can you urgently, because I am not sure if the police have done this, now the General Election is over, look at the situation in London,

emphasise that bail conditions are an important part in driving down crime and protecting our communities, and also just ensure that there are no adverse consequences from this system that has been imposed on policing, probably through austerity? We need to bring it back onto our side in tackling crime.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

Extinction Rebellion

2019/19706

17 October 2019

Peter Whittle AM

Peter Whittle AM: Thank you for that answer, Mr Mayor, a very thorough answer. I would say that my question is not really so much about Extinction Rebellion; it just so happens to have been that it was Extinction Rebellion.

My question is about this fire engine parked for a matter of minutes outside the Treasury, right in the heart of what is known as the 'golden triangle', which, as you would know, is the most policed area in the country. In this case, they took out some fake red blood or whatever and spread it over pretty ineptly, but during that time, Mr Mayor, they could have taken out guns. They could have shot the building up, very effectively. They could indeed have been packed with explosives or whatever. You know what I mean. I am astonished how this was allowed to stay even for 30 seconds. That is all they needed. I am sure you know it is right next door to some terrorist barriers on Birdcage Walk. I walk past them every day. How come, in the most protected part of Britain, this was allowed to happen?

I repeat: I am not worried about Extinction Rebellion particularly. That could have been a massive terrorist attack.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I understand the concern and the reason why it has been raised. I do not want to sound complacent. The MPS and the security services take huge steps to keep our city, particularly high visibility - in inverted commas - targets, safe from people. You will appreciate that we have, I am afraid, a long history of being the target of terrorists and you are right to distinguish this particular demonstration.

I say to you, Chair, through you that I will ask the Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis] to respond directly to your specific concerns because I am a bit conscious about saying things in public fora to reassure him. I reassure the public that the MPS is the world's finest when it comes to keeping our city safe. As I said, we have thwarted 22 terror attacks since 2017. There are real-time comms in relation to what is going on. On this particular incident, I am happy to get the police to respond directly to him.

Oral update to the Mayor's report

2019/19347

12 September 2019

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Can you confirm the answer to my MQ is still incomplete and you will provide further updates on the MQ as well?

Sian Berry AM: OK, just to make sure a full answer is on the database in the end would be useful.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will make sure. I am happy, Chair, if there is any interest, to copy in the Assembly Members because I appreciate that Londoners will be concerned about how the public realm is dealt with.

Oral update to the Mayor's report

2019/19347

12 September 2019

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: My first question - and I ask this because the Police and Crime Committee discussed facial recognition with the MPS the day before the new information was published - is: when did you find out that the answer you had given me was wrong?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. I can give you the exact timelines, but it would have been -- as soon as I found out, I straight away got in touch with you, yes.

Support for Young People during the Summer Holidays

Question Number: 2019/14442

18 July 2019

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Can I ask you to send in writing the programme of activities that is going to be undertaken by the Violence Reduction Unit? We can share that with all Members and they can disseminate it.

Modern slavery

Question Number: 2019/12340

20 June 2019

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: We welcome the funding for domestic abuse services and we are very passionate about those, but would you consider some sustainable funding for a service for male victims of human trafficking, who often have very little support options available after their initial referral? I would like you to take that away and consider that, Mr Mayor.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, this is a really important point. I am happy to go away and look into this. Some of the hotspots have been car washes in London. Can I take this away, Chair, and see what we can do? We have to make sure we realise that this is happening in our city in 2019. Can I look into this and come back to you on that?

Steve O'Connell AM: It is a massive issue and I would like to spend more time on it, but I do not have time at the moment.

Collaboration

Question Number: 2019/12343

20 June 2019

Steve O'Connell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not know the particular case with Croydon. I am happy to go away and look at the particular case in Croydon and ask Fiona Twycross [AM] and/or Sophie Linden [Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime] to get back to me and to you about what the particular issue is. I would not want to give the impression there are not bumps along the way and there are not real, good reasons why for some things they have to be kept separate.

Steve O'Connell AM: No, I understand there are challenges and difficulties and things have to be addressed. It does take time. I accept that. There is union input, and I get that completely. There is a cost of, in essence, subletting, and I will not go into those details. I have not spoken to the senior officer. I still sense there is not that will to do that. It is really important and I would ask you both - this is Purley Fire Station - to take a personal interest in this.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I undertake to come back to the Assembly Member on that with the two Deputy Mayors.

Steve O'Connell AM: Thank you.

Support for Survivors of Rape and Sexual Offences

Question Number: 2019/9267

16 May 2019

Joanne McCartney AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I will of course be happy to arrange for Assembly Member McCartney to meet with Claire Waxman to speak through this work.

Online Hate Crime Hub

Question Number: 2019/8969

16 May 2019

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Let me give you an example of some accusations that have been made. The keynote speech given by Glyn Secker [Secretary, Jewish Voice for Labour] in which he said Jews were "in the gutter" and reported antisemitism was part of the problem. Are you aware of any of these accusations?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not personally aware, Chair, but I can check if the Assembly Member wants me to whether the police know about it.

Shaun Bailey AM: Fair enough.

Online Hate Crime Hub

Question Number: 2019/8969

16 May 2019

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Bearing that in mind, do you think it is acceptable for public figures such as Diane Abbott [MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington] and Richard Burgon [MP for Leeds East] to stand alongside these people with the National Front (NF) when these statements are being made, and would you join me in asking them to distance themselves from this march?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I just do not know enough. I am not being evasive. I just do not know the facts you are talking about. I am happy to go away and look into it. I just do not know.

Shaun Bailey AM: When you do look into it, please do.

Online Hate Crime Hub

Question Number: 2019/8969

16 May 2019

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Let me say this, Mayor. When you go away and you find out about this, will you write to me and join me in condemning these actions? Again, just the mere mention of the two letters together, NF, causes a lot of distress for Londoners across London from all kinds of communities: the gay community, the black community, the Jewish community. For me, this was very poor form. I am just asking you to go away and do the work - I understand you might not know - and then write to me and condemn these actions if you can.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Will the Member just clarify that when he uses the initials NF, what organisation is it?

Shaun Bailey AM: National Front.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): The National Front he is talking about?

Shaun Bailey AM: Yes.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): OK. Have you finished now?

Shaun Bailey AM: Yes. I will give the Mayor an opportunity to write back to me.

Anti-social behaviour

Question Number: 2019/8980

16 May 2019

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: Mr Mayor, would you go back to the MPS and say to them to treat that as a priority to make sure that PCSO coverage, as well as the two Dedicated Ward Officers, is consistent across London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will, but I think the Assembly Member is missing out the important fact from his question, which is that there are fewer police officers now in London than any time since 2003. There are fewer than 30,000 people officers. One of the things I made sure when I became Mayor is that we protect the one Dedicated Ward Officer and one PCSO we have in each ward, but we have doubled the amount of Dedicated Ward Officers.

Anti-social behaviour

Question Number: 2019/8980

16 May 2019

Steve O'Connell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In relation to PCSOs, the latest numbers I have are that 92% of wards have at least one PCSO, but for reasons to do with sickness, maternity/paternity leave, promotion, retirement or resignation, there can be PCSOs missing. As soon as we can get more resources from the Government and the cuts reversed, the sooner we can increase the number of police officers and indeed maybe PCSOs to have more neighbourhood policing rather than less, as we have had in the last eight years.

Steve O'Connell AM: I think that commitment of two and one is a mayoral commitment, and I think all members, particularly constituency members, will be looking at that very closely to ensure that that commitment is delivered.

Tackling far-right extremism

Question Number: 2019/8851

16 May 2019

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Yes. The article also mentioned several pilot projects on sharing intelligence between health and social services and the police. Are any of those pilots taking place in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): They are not City Hall led. I am not sure about the Government ones but I can check and get back to you.

Sian Berry AM: Would you be able to? That would be really useful.

Girls and Gang Association

Question Number: 2019/6296

21 Mar 2019

Florence Eshalomi AM

Florence Eshalomi AM: Could I ask that when we are looking at reviewing that, the people on the matrix, there is a gender-based solution in terms of how we deal with some of the women on the matrix?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I can make sure those points are taken on board by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and that is taken on board in relation to the review as well.

Community policing

Question Number: 2019/6037

21 Mar 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Commissioner is always looking for new ideas and I am happy to pass the words of the Assembly Member to the Commissioner and to Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime, Sophie] Linden as well.

Freedom of Speech

Question Number: 2019/6146

21 Mar 2019

David Kurten AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you, Chairman. I can confirm that a man was arrested outside Southgate Station on 23 February [2018] as a result of a complaint made by a member of the public. He was later released without charge. It has been widely reported that Mr Ilesanmi was arrested and subsequently de-arrested and released by the police at a different location some distance from the place of arrest. Following the police's handling of this matter, a complaint has been received and this is now being reviewed by the borough's Professional Standards Unit. I expect the police to take this matter seriously and I can write to Members once an update on this investigation has been received. [...] In this particular case, once I have an update, I am happy to write to not just the Assembly Member but others if others have an interest to give them the outcome and stuff.

Disability Hate Crime

Question Number: 2019/0331

17 Jan 2019

Unemsh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: I am sure the MPS are looking at ways of working with the third sector here, but could you encourage them, through your Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden] and the Victims Commissioner [Claire Waxman], to look at ways it can better work with the third sector?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. Can I just say, the third sector are doing some really world-leading work here? Can I thank you for praising them for the work they are doing? Of course Sophie Linden [Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime] will look at the work in West Yorkshire. The MPS is working closely with the Disability Hate Crime Working Group and the independent advisory groups to look at refreshing its training. We are also looking at how we can make sure that the Hate Crime Liaison Officers have more specialisation. Next month there is a Core Working Group meeting with disability independent advisory groups and Inclusion London and I will make sure I ask them to look into best practice from around the country. If we can learn from others, we should do so.

Disability Hate Crime

Question Number: 2019/0331

17 Jan 2019

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, in 2014, former Assembly Member Victoria Borwick produced a report called *Hidden Hate* and it was about disability hate crime. One of the recommendations that she made there was that the police adopt the Pegasus reporting system and that all attacks against disabled people should all be investigated on the basis that they could be a hate crime against disabled people. Is that something that you would be willing to take to the MPS for them to adopt?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am caught blind on this. Can I take it away and look into this? It is always helpful to take up good ideas and so, if you would not mind, let me take it away and get back to you.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you very much.

Workers' safety

Question Number: 2018/5415

20 Dec 2018

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: I accept you do not know what is going on and I am not criticising you for that. Could I ask you, Mr Mayor, to look into it, then, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, absolutely. It is just not acceptable that anybody --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): It is illegal.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): -- cannot go about their business because they are worried about their safety. Can I look at that and get back to you?

Keith Prince AM: Yes. Perhaps we could have a conversation offline on that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am happy to do that.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. That is great. Thank you.

Workers' safety

Question Number: 2018/5415

20 Dec 2018

Susan Hall AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [Cressida Dick CBE QPM] is in dialogue with the Police Federation. You will be aware that her paramount concern is to keep her officers and our city safe. I have not received an update in relation to the work taking place. You will recall that officers are encouraged to report every incident. As soon as I have received news on this from the Commissioner, I would be more than happy, Chairman, to write to Assembly Member Hall to let her know, bearing in mind her interest in this issue, what developments there have been.

Gangs Violence Matrix and Black Londoners

Question Number: 2018/5242

20 Dec 2018

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I want the review to be published this year and it will be published this year [2018]. I am not taking a break this Christmas. It will happen this year. As soon as I know the exact date I will let you know, but it will be this year. I know it is 20 December [2018], but it is really important that we publish it as soon as we can.

County Lines

Question Number: 2018/5430

20 Dec 2018

Steve O'Connell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Just to reassure the Assembly, Chairman, the MPS are the lead force when it comes to county lines across the country and I would be very happy to arrange for a presentation to the [London Assembly] Police and Crime Committee (PCC) to talk about some of the work we are doing. There is a link. The Assembly Member has alluded to this. There is a link between organised crime, drugs, gangs and the increase in violent crime. I do not think the MPS are taking resources away from county lines to fight other pressing issues. They are all linked. Also, you are right to remind us in your earlier question about the safeguarding role. These are young people and vulnerable people who are being groomed to be mules and couriers. Often you have young children from London in Edinburgh or other parts of our country. You are right, there is a responsibility to do more policing but also other parts of social services, child welfare, education and others. I can assure you, Assembly Member, that the Commissioner takes it very, very seriously but I am very happy, Chairman, for the relevant MPS officer, who leads for the country, to do a presentation for the PCC if that would help.

Steve O'Connell AM: I know the PCC will continue to take an interest, yes. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Rape/Sexual assault survivors' data requests

Question Number: 2018/2864

19 Oct 2018

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. Would it be possible to let us have a copy of your Victims' Commissioner's letter?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Happy to do so, Mr Chairman.

Modern day slavery

Question Number: 2018/2759

19 Oct 2018

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: Finally, Mr Mayor, the Archbishop of Westminster, last year described modern slavery in the capital as the dark underbelly of London's society and I am glad that there is an awareness now developing very rapidly about this serious issue, not just in London but across the country. The cooperative part in particular has done a lot of work and produced a charter on modern slavery. A number of councils in London and around the country, indeed some Conservative councils as well, have adopted the charter. In my constituency all four of my councils - City of London [Corporation], Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Barking and Dagenham - have adopted the charter.

Would you encourage other London authorities that have not adopted the charter as yet to do so?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Mr Chairman, why do I not agree to get the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to write to all councillors and maybe London Councils as well to bring this to their attention. Because actually one of the things you are talking about is county lines and county lines is sometimes modern slavery. It is child grooming and child exploitation where young children from London are being exploited so it affects every part of our city. If that is agreeable to the Chairman, I will make sure the Deputy Mayor writes to all the councillors to bring this to their attention.

Women's centres in London

Question Number: 2018/2509

19 Oct 2018

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. Just a couple of follow up questions and thank you for your response to the report as well. During our investigation we heard about the development of a pilot project to help divert women from the criminal justice system. I think you just said £500,000 was going in to that. The Police and Crime Plan published in March last year [2017] said this was something you were going to do and it was planned for summer 2018. Then, in your response to our report, you said it would start later this year. Then the MPS' response to the report said it would start in early 2019. Can you confirm and make it clear when the pilot will actually start and say why there has been such a delay?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure. Yes. I think it is more cock up than conspiracy with the language of the MoU being agreed with the MoJ. I think the current Justice Secretary has been very good, David Gauke [Secretary of State for Justice], in meeting with us, getting his officials to move fast. The MoU is now done. The way the finances work means we could not do it in the year we would like to do it. We are going to go as quickly as we can. Again, we will work with you to make sure you are updated with developments and stuff. But there is no conspiracy or reason for the delay except for the delay in the MoU and making sure we can spend the money in the right time as soon as we can.

Sian Berry AM: Do you have a date for the pilot to start there?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I can contact you. I will get my office to contact you about when we think it will start.

Women's centres in London

Question Number: 2018/2509

19 Oct 2018

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: No, I agree. Will you discuss that with the Ministry of Justice and maybe convene the council and the Ministry to see what can be done just in the meantime?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Mr Chairman, what I am happy to do is speak to the Assembly Member for the area and the council about what they think. I always think the best thing to do is speak to those on the ground. I am happy to speak to the Assembly Member and the council about that.

Sian Berry AM: Fantastic.

Knife crime

Question Number: 2018/2370

13 Sep 2018

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Can you provide the minutes of those Congress meetings and the dates of the meetings?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will speak to London Councils, Chairman.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you.

Public engagement

Question Number: 2018/1994

19 Jul 2018

Steve O'Connell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I think the issue is that the Council, not unreasonably, wants to make sure that the consultation and the engagement are good. I think the Council is seeking to make sure the public engagement works and so it is trying to make the Board more representative. The Chair of the Police and Crime Committee was right: the Council cannot disband an independent body. What a Council can do is seek to improve and finesse. If the process is not working, the consultation is not there and the Board is not representative, hypothetically speaking, then I think it is not improper for a Council to work with us to try to improve it.

Tony Devenish AM: As you have said to Assembly Member [Steve] O'Connell, will you talk to MOPAC, please, to defend the local Ward Panels as they are currently constituted, rather than allow a borough council leader to try to take it over?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think what we will do, Chairman, is talk to the Council about the concerns it has and seek to address those concerns. At the same time, the point made by the Chair of the Police and Crime Committee was that we have to value and show our appreciation to the volunteers who work voluntarily because they believe in the community. We will seek to do all those things.

Police raids and the Notting Hill Carnival

Question Number: 2018/1747

19 Jul 2018

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: In addition to Notting Hill Carnival, when and for what other public order events have the Metropolitan Police conducted pre-event raids?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): For operational reasons I cannot discuss the detail of the MPS's plan for Carnival today. However, the Gold Commander for Carnival is happy to separately brief the Police and Crime Committee on the plans, as he did last year.

Exclusion zones

Question Number: 2018/1692

21 Jun 2018

Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: Thank you. I welcome your support for women's rights in this area and for the action being taken by Ealing and potentially Lambeth. Clearly at the point at which the exclusion zones are implemented local authorities may require some support from the MPS if a breach takes place. Will you therefore be ensuring MOPAC issues guidance to Borough Commanders on this point?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, and I have raised this with the police. The problem at the moment is the police do not have powers to stop lawful protest outside clinics, which is why the PSPO that Ealing passed was a useful device. That has been challenged in the courts. Once we see what happens with the court case, and we see what happens with Lambeth, they are good examples where there are additional things can be done for breach of the PSPO. That is one of the reasons why we had the consultation - that I will have to share with you - in relation to more things the Government could be doing for additional powers that will give the police more tools to use in those circumstances where people are harassing women utilising their right to visit these clinics.

Hate Crime

Question Number: 2018/1408

21 Jun 2018

David Kurten AM

David Kurten AM: You have been giving a very long answer. I am going to move on to the next thing. You are talking about these imaginary hate crime spikes, as you do. There was something very disturbing that appeared on the website of the MPS back in March, which was very, very quickly removed. There was a paragraph that said, "If someone does something that isn't a criminal offence, but the victim or anyone else believes it was motivated by prejudice or hate, we would class that as a hate incident. Though what the perpetrator has done may not be against the law, their reasons for doing it are. This means that it may be possible to charge them with an offence." Whoever wrote that paragraph seems to be adhering to a culture where you are looking to criminalise people for things that are not criminal offences. This paragraph was roundly condemned and ridiculed and then it was very, very quickly removed, but why would something like that appear on the website of the MPS, and how far up the chain does this attitude and this culture go?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Just so we are clear, I am personally responsible for a hustings being cancelled, and now I am personally responsible for a paragraph on a website six months ago being put up there and taken off?

David Kurten AM: Mr Mayor, I just asked you how far up it was. I did not say that you were personally responsible. I am asking you where this kind of culture and attitude comes from. You sound a little bit defensive, so maybe you are responsible.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): With you, never. I have no idea what paragraph is being referred to, Chairman. I am happy to go away and look into the paragraph that is being referred to that is causing so much consternation to the Assembly Member.

Use of borough-wide Section 60

Question Number: 2018/1434

21 Jun 2018

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I have been trying to find out more about this issue. Unfortunately, I had two written questions that I have submitted to the May MQT to try to get some data on the use of borough-wide Stop and Search orders going back in time. They have not been answered yet, and I wondered if you might be able to speed that up a bit. Thank you for telling us there have been 46 borough-wide Stop and Search section 60 orders so far this year. I have been trying to track those by looking at the Twitter feeds of the police, and I do not think I have captured all of those that way.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I know that we raised this at the last Police and Crime Committee (PCC). I am looking towards the Chairman now. Why don't we agree for me to arrange for the Deputy Mayor and the relevant officer to come to the PCC? Other Members can go along to that Committee and there can be a proper explanation of this issue. It is really important that Assembly Members have confidence in what the police are doing. The police want you to have confidence in what they are doing.

Serious and Violent Crime

Question Number: 2018/1151

17 May 2018

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you for that. [The Rt. Hon] David Lammy MP has stated that, “Most of these killings are being fuelled by a huge spike in the movement of drugs”, and that, “The police and our country has lost control of the drugs market”. Is it not time to take control of the drugs market so that it can be regulated? Is not it time to legalise to save lives?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You raised this question as well at the summit and the Home Secretary quite deftly did not answer the question.

Look, there are different schools of thought in relation to this. I am just not in favour of legalising drugs. I know the arguments that there are and the complexities in the issue, and I know that during the Coalition Government the Liberal Democrats did some work around this area. I am not persuaded, but if there is expert advice that you can point to - and it is the national politicians who will make the decision in Parliament - then of course it is something for them to look into.

I am not persuaded that legalising drugs will lead to the sort of uppity sun lands that some predict it will do.

Andrew Boff AM: Are you open, therefore, for me to - with expert evidence - come and present the case to you for you to assess it?

Just for example, we know that cannabis is the most widely sold drug in London, but data released from the Home Office has shown that cannabis seizures have plummeted by 34% in the past five years, whilst class A drugs have dropped by just 12%. All the while, this city sees more and more violent crime. The police have effectively handed the cannabis market over to criminal networks, which is fuelling violent crime and exploiting young people. They are doing so as they know that no amount of resource committed to the police is sufficient to stop criminal gangs running this market.

Why is this a London issue? London has the highest proportion of young people who have taken drugs. A 2018 National Health Service (NHS) survey shows that 29% of 11-to-15-year-olds stated that they have taken drugs, which is 7% higher than the national average.

If I can present some more evidence to you, I would appreciate the opportunity, and I think many people who have experienced drugs-based crime, and drugs-based poor health outcomes as a result of the illegal drugs market would appreciate that opportunity to present the case.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I will say I am very happy to meet with the Assembly Member and the experts he wants to bring along to meet with me and the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime]. Of course, I am happy to meet with you.

VAWG Strategy

Question Number: 2018/0750

22 Mar 2018

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: I would be happy to do so, Mr Mayor, if you could give an undertaking to meet some sex workers who are currently operating in London and want to continue being sex workers.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am sure the Victims Commissioner --

Andrew Boff AM: You could do that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): -- and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime will listen to what the Assembly Member has said and respond duly.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you.

Child Protection following HMICFRS Report

Question Number: 2018/0873

22 Mar 2018

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: My second question: you have talked, quite understandably, in very general terms in answering my main question. Is it reasonable to discuss there being targets in this area with the Commissioner? In particular, the Inspectorate found that almost 90% of cases either required improvement or were inadequate. Will you consider asking the Commissioner for a timescale as to when the percentages will be significantly decreased by? You talked about a 12-month period, but would more specific targets help?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, the report from the Inspectorate did recognise the huge complexities in relation to turning this around. These are complex issues. It will take some time. As I said in my answer, we expect to see significant change by the time of the next report. However, you are right, we have to make sure that there is progress being made. What the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is doing at the London Child Protection Improvement Oversight Group, as we speak, is discussing this issue: how we monitor. Processes will be developed to provide key information as to how well the MPS is doing and data will be collated over appropriate timescales in order that progress can be measured. I am happy to update you and the Committee on progress made.

Unmesh Desai AM: Thank you very much.

The Night Time Economy and Women's Safety

Question Number: 2018/0938

22 Mar 2018

Len Duvall AM

Len Duvall AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. I welcome the voluntary nature of the Charter. While we are doing the voluntary work and exposing this aspect and the potential crimes that go on from it, we do need to start to think about how we reinforce this by changes in the licensing laws. Would you be prepared to lead a campaign where we seek from Government a change in the licensing law, making it mandatory as part of the license that licensees - it is in their interest - protect their customers and have to report the crime? There is a lack of reporting by some licensees of crimes that occur on their premises. That would, as you said, seek to stop unwanted harassment that can lead to sexual assaults and, indeed, rape. That is the seriousness of it. Every polling that has come back from Drinkaware and YouGov has said a number of people have experienced poor behaviour and, in some cases, breaking of the law in terms of nights out. We need to encourage people to do it. We are doing it voluntarily. However, we do need to strengthen the licensing legislation. If we move to do that we need to start talking to Parliament and our Parliamentary colleagues. You need to talk to your other policing and crime colleagues.

Reduced resources for police means we need to manage risk. We need to move that prevent agenda as much as possible by doing this and strengthening the licensing laws; putting the onus on owners and those who are managing licensed properties and giving a guide of what is expected. Then we can make women much safer in some of these environments.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am very happy to write to the relevant Secretary of State, let me tell you why. I cannot speak for everyone but because of our age and profile we may not realise the amount of criminality or harassment short of criminality that takes place in some of these premises. It is just worth me saying this, which is the evidence: predators choose certain premises if they know there is a lax arrangement. That is the context of your question and the evidence we have. This is why those behind the Violence Against Women and Crime Strategy - Sophie Linden [Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime] working closely with Claire Waxman [Victims Commissioner], London Councils, the Crime Reduction Board and others, Amy Lamé - did so much work listening to victims of this harassment and criminality. What we were told was even very good local authorities, when it came to licensing, were saying, "The legislation is such that if we impose draconian conditions we get challenged through the courts and we lose".

Your suggestion that we ask the Government to change the law to give local authorities the tools they need when it comes to licensing has to be the best way to do this. I will take up this suggestion and I will write to the Secretary of State and send you a copy of the representations that I make to him or her. In the meantime, we will carry on the best practice stuff that we are doing.

By the way, this is a story that you will enjoy, I hope. I spoke to a young person two weeks ago when we launched our campaign and she told me that she had been in a bar and was being treated in a way that she should not be treated, but she used the 'Ask for Angela' device. She was very distressed. She went to the loo and was distressed by what this bloke had done. She saw in the loo the sign saying, "If you are being treated in a certain way that is inappropriate, ask the bar staff for somebody called Angela and they will take action". She did what was advised and the bar staff took action and kicked this guy out. This is an example of things that are happening voluntarily. We need more of this in the meantime before we get the legislation changed that we need.

HMICFRS - Metropolitan Police Child Protection Inspection and post-inspection updates

Question Number: 2018/0001

18 Jan 2018

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have a long list, Chair - I will write to you, just to save time - of the things we have done, but it is not good enough. We have continued the oversight, asking the tough questions, but have put more structures in place so we can have evidence to demonstrate there is going to be genuine change. What I am told is that it will take some time, I am afraid, to turn things around. Your question has highlighted the fact that police know there are problems but there does not seem to be as swift a turnaround as there should be. That is why you are right - as indeed Sophie Linden and I are right - to continue to put pressure on the police. That is why what I have announced today is new in the sense of asking the HMICFRS to provide the ongoing support so that we can have external pressure as well.

Anti-knife campaign for young Londoners

Question Number: 2017/5309

21 Dec 2017

Shaun Bailey AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Therefore, we can provide the teachers with a bespoke toolkit they can use to teach young people the sort of things you are talking about. We are hoping to launch that early next year. I am really happy to give you an early viewing of some of the stuff that is going to be in the toolkit. Hopefully you will welcome that.

Consultation engagement with the disabled and the elderly

Question Number: 2017/5053

14 Dec 2017

Tony Devenish AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): During the consultation process submissions were received either online, by post or through the public meetings held in every borough which represented the views of older people and people with disabilities. MOPAC and the MPS wanted to go further than just relying on those groups coming forward. This is why MOPAC worked with other organisations - including Age UK London, the London Older People's Steering Group and Inclusion London which supports over 70 organisations collectively representing 700,000 disabled Londoners - to hold dedicated sessions to discuss the proposals. As decisions were taken this feedback was considered and individual consideration was given to the equality impact of the changes in each borough. This, for example, identified the needs of people with mobility problems in certain communities, which is why MOPAC and the MPS are introducing enhanced community contact sessions for those communities over an hour from the nearest front counter. It also reflected, for example, how the improved MPS website will support deaf Londoners, something MOPAC highlighted in the consultation. The MPS has also been clear in all of its interactions with the public that it will prioritise those most vulnerable Londoners and this is reflected in the strategy. When the final strategy was published it was accompanied by a final EIA that highlights some of the findings of the consultation and considers the impact and mitigation of the changes to older people, those with disabilities and others.

This compares, Chair, favourably to the former Mayor's closure of police stations in 2013 when there was no draft EIA and no formal consultation document. He also received less than a quarter of the number of submissions received time.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Do you have any figures on how many elderly and disabled people took part in the consultation, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am sure we do. I can provide those to you offline, if you want me to.

Tony Devenish AM: Thank you.

Hate Crime

Question Number: 2017/4372

16 Nov 2017

Peter Whittle AM

Peter Whittle AM: I tried at the recent Plenary with the Commissioner [Cressida Dick CBE QPM, MPS Commissioner] to get some sort of breakdown of the figures of hate crime. It is proving quite difficult, at least it is taking a long time. Do you have those sorts of figures at your disposal that I could have that basically which describe how much is online, how much is comment, how much is physical attack, what have you? It is proving very difficult to get that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I undertake, Chair, to go away and bring back to Assembly Member Whittle, I am happy to copy in others, what the figures are for hate crime. Happy to do that. I see nodding heads so I will circulate it to the entire Assembly.

Domestic abusers register

Question Number: 2017/4577

16 Nov 2017

Len Duvall AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I say, Chair, that is on top of the fact that fewer people will suffer the misery, less victims of crime and the savings that you are talking about. What I suggest, Chair, is because there are some issues around the cause and effects of it and the impacts on the National Probation Service and the London Community Rehabilitation Company.

Can I suggest, Chair, subject to permission from you, that my Deputy for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, meets with Len Duvall AM, who's leading on this, in the next three or four weeks to discuss how we move forward in relation to this piece of work? Because I actually think this piece of work may be an incentive, one of -- sorry, an additional incentive for the Government to take action as has been suggested by the Assembly and supported by me.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you.

Modern Day Slavery

Question Number: 2017/3996

12 Oct 2017

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): However, we need to be upfront that is not something to be dealt with by the MPS alone. In my Police and Crime Plan, I have made a commitment to bring partners together to look at how we work collectively, share in intelligence and best practice and pooling resources to target our response. Via the London Modern Slavery Partnership Board, we are already building awareness of frontline professionals to identify victims and working with industries to make supply chains more transparent and looking at how we target enforcement to pursue abuse that takes place on a smaller scale.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Thank you for that. I have got a couple of questions. Because of the need to raise awareness and share as much information as possible, will you look to ensuring that the work of the board and the work of all the meetings that you are having, the Deputies are having around this issue, is publicised as soon as possible? I am sure we can find a mechanism of doing that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, for the record.

Borough mergers and response times

Question Number: 2017/3917 **12 Oct 2017**

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Do you think, Mr Mayor, it would be more appropriate, if she is having a meeting with the borough leaders to discuss the tri-borough pathfinder in Havering, Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham that she should at least do us the courtesy of inviting us to that meeting?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, sorry, I am not sure if they have been excluded or not invited. Which one is it?

Keith Prince AM: Being excluded, Mr Mayor. I have publicly asked her if she would invite myself and Assembly Member Desai and she said no. I think it is most inappropriate, for a meeting that concerns two of my boroughs and one of Unmesh's [Unmesh Desai AM] boroughs, that she would exclude us, Mr Mayor.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I just do not know the facts, Chair. I am happy to look into them and get back to the Assembly Member.

Disproportionality in BAME individuals in the CJS

Question Number: 2017/3995 **12 Oct 2017**

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Let me just be clear what you have said, that the Trident matrix is under review specifically.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Correct.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): I was not clear about the timescale and how that would be reported.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy for Sophie Linden [Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime] to give you a briefing this issue.

Counter Terrorism

Question Number: 2017/4007 **12 Oct 2017**

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Can you say how many detectives the MPS is currently short and what the barriers are, as you see them, to filling the vacancies and what progress is being made in recruiting detectives to fill those vacancies?

Andrew Dismore AM: How many are we short at present?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is a figure which I can send to you.

Transparency and Policing in London

Question Number: 2017/3830 14 Sep 2017

Andrew Dismore AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): My understanding is that the evaluation of the pathfinders we are going to do towards the end of this year. It would have been done earlier but for the problems that have been articulated by Assembly Member Desai. You will be aware of the additional increase in resources to resolve the issues. By the way, it would be unfair to say it has been a blanket failure because there have been improvements around dealing with vulnerable people and around some of the other services that were identified by the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) report. The pathfinders have led to some improvements in services in some areas.

However, clearly, as was referred to by Assembly Member Desai, response times were a big source of concern for everyone and we still need to address those. The idea is that towards the end of this year the Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor will evaluate the pathfinders before deciding on how to proceed.

Andrew Dismore AM: Will that be on objective and published criteria?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I write to you about that? I am not sure what the criteria are, but they should always be criteria that reassure the public rather than a source of not reassuring the public. I will write to you to let you know exactly what the criteria is and when we expect to evaluate that by.

Andrew Dismore AM: Thank you.

Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman in the Chair): Assembly Member Bacon?

Gareth Bacon AM: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairman. Just on that final point, Mr Mayor, could you write to all Assembly Members on that criteria?

Transparency and Policing in London

Question Number: 2017/3830 14 Sep 2017

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Are you happy with the seemingly shambolic nature of your consultation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): These are meetings organised locally. They are locally organised and so, if you are criticising, for example, the Council in Kensington and Chelsea, I note that and I will pass that on to them. If you are criticising other councils, I know the Borough Commanders and I will pass on your criticism.

Annual HMIC Report on MPS

Question Number: 2017/1747 **22 Mar 2017**

Unmesh Desai AM

Unmesh Desai AM: Yes. Finally, Mr Mayor, there is something else about this particular service ["My Local Bobby" that concerns me. The company has said that it will have access to the Police National Computer and that this was guaranteed in a memorandum of understanding with the MPS. The MPS has not been very forthcoming about this arrangement.

Can you please look into this and tell this Assembly in due course in what way the MPS has agreed to work with them, if at all?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, through you, I will undertake to get my Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] to look into this and write to you and the Assembly in response to the question raised about this memorandum of understanding.

Unmesh Desai AM: Thank you.

London crime prevention funding

Question Number: 2017/0054 **18 Jan 2017**

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: That is really good. I really want to have a discussion, though, about what you see as your strategic role in London. Boroughs do have this problem. You do have the London Crime Prevention Fund and the existence of that fund in itself does admit that there is some kind of obligation on you to mitigate this problem. Will you be talking to boroughs about practical ways you might help them, maybe by boosting that fund?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I always talk to London Councils about how they can spend the precious resources they have, to help their constituents, my constituents, but also to see how we can work together to save monies. Of course I will talk to them because the reality is that young people get a bad name for a small minority acting badly. The vast majority, as I said in my answer, are a credit to themselves and we are going to do all we can to help all of them fulfil their potential.

Sian Berry AM: During the mayoral campaign, like me, you did sign up to the Invest in Youth Work Pledge, which was written by young people, supported by the Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Change.org and signed by 41,000 young people. In that pledge, we both promised to meet with the campaign if you were elected Mayor. Will you meet them now and talk to them about practical things you can do to help youth services in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would be happy to.

Attitudes in the Met

Question Number: 2016/4797

14 Dec 2016

Unmesh Desai AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This has to be a mainstream issue for all of our staff. Can I tell you, I was deeply impressed by our police after the Orlando atrocities and the corporate building measures that we did to the LGBT+ communities in London? What upset me was the stories I was being told in 2016 by Londoners who are LGBT+ saying, "We have been the victim of hate crime but did not report it because why bother?" I was imploring upon them to report anything that is a criminal offence. I am afraid this sort of stuff just puts that back and that is what all of us, all the police across all boroughs should be aware of, that this is a priority for us. We have zero tolerance towards hate crime.

Unmesh Desai AM: On that note, can I also ask you to keep me informed of the progress of the investigation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, I am happy to.

Unmesh Desai AM: There are other Members also are concerned about the implications of this case.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401

6 Jul 2016

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Thank you for your answer. You have actually raised the next point which I was going to put to you, which is about underreporting. Is there a particular problem with underreporting, especially amongst victims of the older generation, who may have simply started to tolerate it and seen it as part of life, as opposed to perhaps the younger generation who may be more likely to report it? Do you monitor and follow up social media reports of hate crime and insults? If not, will you do so? A quick trawl over three days post referendum has turned up this little pile I have put together here of over 70 examples, without any real effort at all. I suppose this is also a question for the Commissioner: are you monitoring this and are you following up some of the reports that are appearing on social media?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I am not sure what that list is, Andrew [Andrew Dismore AM], but we will have a look. What I report obviously are the things that are directly reported to us and, of course, anything that is brought to our attention or we can discover we will investigate. I do take the point that you are making, you encourage people to report these things to the police and that is the most efficient way of us getting to know, and then getting a complaint, obviously, and then investigating. As I pointed out in my initial remarks, while we have seen a rise in recorded hate crimes of around 50%, we have seen a rise of 75% of people arrested, which is the only measure of taking action in these cases.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401 6 Jul 2016

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: That is something you will be considering as part of your plan. You have mentioned Redthread, I did push you at this at the last Mayor's question time. Redthread is another organisation that has had dedicated youth workers in accident and emergencies (A&Es) in London. Will you look to roll this out so every A&E has these dedicated your workers there at that critical teachable moment when a young person comes in? [--]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have talked about the fact that we need to have all our A&Es doing what I have seen some A&Es do across our city. I have been lobbied by a number of Assembly Members around this, and I am keen to make sure that we can do that. It is important to understand that prevention is crucial around this area. The point the Commissioner made, and I made during my opening statement, is the police by themselves cannot crack this. There is a role for parents, there is a role for teachers, there is a role for specialists in A&E, there is a role for youth leaders, there is a role for Assembly Members, there is a role of politicians and there is a role for the media. We want to try to crack this and it is very important that we do.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401

6 Jul 2016

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you for those comments. Just one final thing, because I do think there are some savings to be made. Things like custody suites, do we share them with neighbouring police forces, because there is a massive saving to be had there?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The BTP do take their prisoners to our facilities. I do not think we charge them at the moment --

Shaun Bailey AM: Sorry, Sir Bernard, what about MPS?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): -- it works so that they help us in various other things we do.

Shaun Bailey AM: What do the MPS do around issues like that? We are bordered in all of London, we are circled, but if you are on the outskirts of London, say where I am, are we sharing facilities with the neighbouring forces to make a saving for both of those forces?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Generally, no. There are some things we work on together and that can always be examined. The general problem of course is that Surrey sets their plan, we in London set our plan and at the edges, for example, there are some areas of working. I know that in some of the south-west boroughs, some Surrey officers are based within Metropolitan Police stations to exchange intelligence, so we have got one of our officers and they bring their own IT systems and that works pretty well. We are always looking for opportunities to collaborate, but I cannot say at the moment they are massive, because each police and crime commissioner has their own plan, although each has got a duty to collaborate.

Shaun Bailey AM: I will leave it there, but it just seems to me, Mr Mayor, that that might be something you want to press, because you can help the police here save a tremendous amount of money.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): OK. Chair, the Deputy Mayor is listening now. We will look into that.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401

6 Jul 2016

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Morning, Mayor, morning, Sir Bernard. I just wanted to quickly have a little talk about the night Tube. I, like most Londoners, am really looking to the notion of getting on the Tube at night; well done for that. A number of Londoners are slightly worried about the potential increase for anti-social behaviour and crime around particular stations. I know that 12 stations in particular have been highlighted by the British Transport Police (BTP). I just wonder - I address these comments to the Mayor - what can be done to track any change in behaviour around these particular stations and what extra provision can be put in to deal with that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a very good question. One of the things we are doing is we will be making an announcement shortly. Question: can we increase the number of BTP officers around night time in those areas where there is concern and other parts of the Tube system as well? Can we increase the number of MPS officers, the MPS family, in relation to those areas? One of the reasons why I was keen to start with two lines rather than a big bang of five was to make sure, for want of a better word, teething problems, issues, are dealt with, rather than later on. For example, we have now realised there is a concern amongst residents about the noise of the Tube running at night time; when it is quieter, you can hear the noise from the Tubes. However, anti-social behaviour is a big issue; how we police cabs around stations, buses and so on, so you are right to raise that and it is important that any particular concerns, let me know and the team know. Why don't I commit, Chair, to report back to Assembly Members about what we are planning before 19 August 2016, and also, importantly, you can feed to me particular concerns on the Tube system that we need to address before we start the other three later on this year?

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401

6 Jul 2016

Peter Whittle AM

Peter Whittle AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor, good morning, Commissioner. Just to take you back to the priority of hate crime, which obviously, as we know, has been increasing in London for a long time, I wonder if you could just clarify some things for me on the particular figure that you quoted of 599 that has recently come up over the period of the referendum, because I think there is a lot of confusion about this. Could you break that figure down in the sense of what kind of hate crime? Are we talking here about assaults maybe on the street; are we talking about social media? Can you just give some idea of quite the proportions?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure. I will let the Commissioner follow up on what I say. It is just worth reminding colleagues what a racist hate incident is. The definition is, "Any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be racist". It comes from the Lawrence Inquiry and the Macpherson Inquiry. The figures, you are right, it is 599 between 24 June and 2 July 2016. I have talked about the different peaks and troughs during that period, but I will let the Commissioner answer on the specifics.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I am afraid I do not have all the breakdown, but we could let the Greater London Authority (GLA) have that. The vast majority have been verbal abuse, but there have been some assaults, and certainly there was one Grievous Bodily Harm within that, and there have been some cases of damage. So the majority have either been damage or verbal assaults, but as the Mayor pointed out earlier, a verbal assault can lead to a physical assault and lead to a context in which people think it is OK to do these things. I do not have the direct figures, I am afraid, in front of me, but I can provide those to the Assembly.

Peter Whittle AM: I would like to see that, if I could.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401

6 Jul 2016

Peter Whittle AM

Peter Whittle AM: I wonder, did you make any arrests there for some of the placards and what they were saying?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): As far as I am aware, we made no arrests. I asked afterwards and I am told the behaviour was good. As far as I am aware there were no arrests, but we can check for you. You may have better information, but as far as I am aware, no.

Peter Whittle AM: Perhaps I could ask you if you would like to have a look, because there were some quite disgusting placards, which seemed to go unnoticed by the MPS.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I will check, but I did ask and I was told no, but I may be wrong.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401 6 Jul 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, will you read and respond to the GLA Conservatives' report, #reporthate, published in June last year, which identified serious weaknesses in the police's capacity to process reports of hate crime online?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Certainly, I will do that. Yes, thank you.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401 6 Jul 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: In Hackney, also police have bypassed the independent sexual violence advisers, known as Open Doors, when they have been made aware of violent attacks against sex workers. Is that acceptable professional practice?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Any report of violence should be treated seriously and should be investigated.

Andrew Boff AM: Should the independent sexual violence adviser be bypassed?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Again, without knowing the detail, I do not quite know what you mean by "bypassed", but if the police receive a report of violence, then I expect them to record it and investigate it.

Andrew Boff AM: Is it not procedure that they should then put that victim in contact with an independent sexual violence adviser?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It probably is, that that is part of the process, but as I say, if you give me the detail of the case, I will have a look at it, I assure you.

Future of the Metropolitan Police Service

Question Number: 2016/2401

6 Jul 2016

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Yes. I appreciate that and we do need to make the job more attractive. I would probably use another word if I was not in a public forum, but I think we do need to make it more attractive. Would you agree, Mr Mayor- and perhaps Sir Bernard might want to comment on this as well - that we need to perhaps broaden the areas in which specials become involved and also perhaps push what we call "special specials", which is where people do not necessarily patrol the street, but if they are specialists in information technology (IT), for instance, we bring them in to deal with IT issues and cyber-crime?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): My understanding is we do do some of that, but if you have got any particular ideas or if there are concerns, please feed into the Deputy Mayor. I thought that was happening, but if it is not then we can look into that, because we need to engender a spirit of - with the relevant supervision - people all chipping in. Again, I am happy to speak offline or speak to the Deputy Mayor about any specific issues there are or examples that you have heard of where that is not happening.

Keith Prince AM: Finally, Mr Mayor, I think you would welcome the fact that the specials have an even better record on representing the communities of London, and that is why they should be encouraged greatly.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Just to give you an idea of the specials in relation to looking like London, 32% of specials are BAME, 32% are female. Still not perfect, but that is a significant improvement in relation to other parts of the police family. That just demonstrates how we have got a spirit of volunteering in London. I do not want to sound like a lobbyist, but the offer has got to be right, we have got to make it enticing and attractive, you are right. If we are missing a trick, I want to make sure we do not, so please speak to the Deputy Mayor about ideas you have got.

Keith Prince AM: Not now, Mr Mayor, but in future, can we have an aspirational number, do you think, something to work towards, a target to achieve?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me look into that.

Terrorism

Question Number: 2016/1917

22 Jun 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: [---] Would you consider looking at a campaign across London, perhaps through TfL along the lines of the "Report it to stop it" campaign, to inform people about the importance of reporting hate crime and how they can go about doing it?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am very happy to look at any ideas in relation to this area. Just to reassure Assembly Member Copley, the MPS still has 155 LGBT liaison officers across London. These officers have been actively tasked to communicate with LGBT networks to ensure that the MPS reassurance message reaches them and that various engagement events are held.

I take his point about TfL and so can I, again, take offline, Chairman, through you, with your permission, take this idea that the Assembly Member has so that we can see how we can work together to try to resolve this? I will arrange for the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to meet with you to discuss any ideas you have because that is a cracking idea and also maybe the Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross.

Terrorism

Question Number: 2016/1917

22 Jun 2016

Peter Whittle AM

Peter Whittle AM: [---] Could I ask you, therefore, maybe - it is a genuine question - to convey this to the Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis]: in fact, if you go to bars in, for example, the West End, there is a fair amount of security. I go there on a regular basis. Unlike in Orlando, the fact of the matter is that you could easily go in with a suicide belt on.

Sometimes I wonder that it has not actually happened already and I am hugely thankful that it has not. Can you convey that in fact that is also something that could easily have been the case in Orlando - actually, it might not have been guns; it might have been someone with a suicide vest - and that, basically, security at bars in Soho and Vauxhall must take this into consideration? Will you convey that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course I will, but can I also suggest, Chairman, through you, to the Assembly Member, I will organise for you to meet my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime so that she is also aware of your genuine concerns and any ideas you might have as well.

FGM

Question Number: 2016/1397

25 May 2016

Peter Whittle AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy, Chairman, to work with anybody to address this issue. Let us speak about what else can be done. If there are ideas that you have that you think the police, the CPS, local authorities or schools are not doing, we need to ensure that they do them because one young person who is subject to FGM is failure. I am willing to explore whatever it takes to try to resolve this. Any ideas you have please come forward with them, yes.

Peter Whittle AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Brexit

Brexit and Businesses

2019/20804

19 December 2019

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: I have recently met with the Eastern European Forum, who tell me that they are still concerned and in particular about a very large Bulgarian population that I have in my constituency. They are quite low in registering. Going forward, will you do some work into looking at which groups may be having more difficulty and perhaps doing some more targeted work if necessary?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. Within the resources we have, Chair, of course we will do what we can to try to make sure that those groups that are not being reached are being reached. The registration rates amongst some of the EU 27 are not great and so we have to make sure we try to reach those parts of London that we have not reached yet.

Brexit impact on Supply Chains for Construction

2019/19988

17 October 2019

Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: Thank you. From talking to the industry, they say that it is very well known, something you have also pointed out, what the impact of Brexit will be on the workforce, but what is not known - and in fact it seems to be an information desert, if you like, a national black hole - is anything about this issue of supply chains.

Apart from all the lobbying that needs to be done on the Government, working with industry partners, will you prioritise and lead on this issue and make it part of your Resilience Strategy?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sitting to your left is the Chair of the London Resilience Forum and we will make sure we take that up in the first meeting this Monday.

To give you an idea of the scale, more than 90% of our timber comes from the EU. A significant amount of our steel comes from the EU. As you will be aware, one of the reasons I mentioned Tilbury Docks in answer to a previous question is that that is the way some of this comes. We will make sure it is raised at the Strategic Co-ordinating Group and also at the Resilience Forum.

Brexit

2019/20035

17 October 2019

Fiona Twycross AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, I will just say, Chair, that I was really pleased that we were able to facilitate a date night for Fiona and her husband at City Hall at the We Are All Londoners event.

It is a really important point. There are some members of our community in London who may appear to be harder to reach than other members and so what we are doing is making sure that we go out to them. The groups that we are particularly concerned about are those who are Roma, rough sleepers, disabled people, and non-EU nationals reliant on EU family. We have supported some outreach work from various projects in London that know those communities best. Some of these communities will not access the online services that we have and so we are doing more of that.

The thing that causes me alarm is that we had one of the most senior members of the Government last week saying that if EU citizens have not signed up for secured status by the end of next year, they could be deported. That is causing real alarm amongst Londoners - and these are Londoners, by the way - who are EU citizens. That is why we are redoubling our efforts to reach them. My worry is that many of the people may disappear. They may be worried about being deported. They may misunderstand what was said. Any advice or assistance that you have or others have I am more than happy to hear.

Fiona Twycross AM: You mentioned the Home Office Minister [Rt Hon] Brandon Lewis's [CBE MP] comments about deporting EU citizens who have not applied for pre-settled or settled status before the deadline. Are you concerned that the Government has not learned from the Windrush scandal?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. Look, I still meet now people who were affected by the Windrush scandal and it was a scandal and a disgrace, but my point is this. Put aside the Windrush scandal. We know that the Home Office, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and the authorities are not the most efficient in the world and, if just one in ten has not registered for whatever reason, in London that is more than 100,000. Around the country it is more than 330,000. These are, for all intents and purposes, Londoners and Britons. It is really important, before the Government is talking about draconian consequences, to be confident that there are systems in place to do it efficiently and properly. I am not sure that they are spending enough time educating the public and making them aware. The fact that you cannot, for example, register using an iPhone already reduces the number of people who have a computer and can register. The Government has to do much more to get the registration rates much higher, bearing in mind that we now know the consequences of not being registered.

Fiona Twycross AM: Thank you. Would you pass on thanks to all these concerned with the work in this area?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will make sure I do. Thank you. Thanks for your kind comments. Thank you.

Brexit
2019/20035

17 October 2019

Unmesh Desai AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will be very quick. Chair, Londoners may not know this but I remember Unmesh Desai taking on the National Front (NF) in the 1980s and he has a long record of taking on fascists and racists. He deserves our praise for the work he has done over many decades. He has been a mentor and role model to me around antiracism.

Show Racism the Red Card and Wear Red Day tomorrow is really important and of course I will be trying to wear red tomorrow. It is my favourite colour and so it is not difficult for me to do so. It is very important that we recognise that although, yes, of course we condemn unequivocally what happened in Bulgaria, we have to get our own house in order. It is really important that we do so as well.

I will respond fully to the really good report done by the Committee and the Assembly. There are really important points raised there.

At the moment, our London is Open campaign will go towards London is open for businesses, bearing in mind we are worried about the consequences of Brexit, but you are right to remind us that we need to give Londoners a sense of belonging. It is about giving people a sense of belonging. We will work with the Assembly to see how we can do that. I will, Chair, be responding formally to the report in due course.

London's Security after Brexit

Question Number: 2017/3708 **14 Sep 2017**

Len Duvall AM

Len Duvall AM: There will be many tragedies on the back of this if we do not get this right. Therefore, what I am asking you to do is urgently meet with the Home Secretary.

Will you also link up with Police and Crime Commissioners across the country? London's MPS is not just dealing with London. We have a sense of leadership for the rest of policing in London. Would you make them have common cause with the Government so that it has a sense of urgency to get on with this matter and to be clear about the direction that we are traveling?

Will you also contact your counterparts in other devolved assemblies and parliaments like Scotland and Wales?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me work on how I can accelerate the reassurance that we all need to make sure that the cross-borders work that takes place, which has led to people being brought back to London to face justice, for example, terrorists, which has led to dangerous people not being allowed to come here, which has led to good working together to investigate crime carries on after we leave the EU. I will do that and I will then write back to Assembly Member Duvall to let him know what action I have taken, because he can then pass on the action we have taken as a consequence.

Brexit and the Environment

Question Number: 2016/2545 **20 Jul 2016**

Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie Cooper AM: Unfortunately, we are starting a bit on the back foot because the previous Mayor wasted a lot of time in the last eight years. We also have the issue that the current Government has not signed the Paris Agreement that emerged at the end of 2015. As someone who went to the Paris Conference, can you assure Londoners that you will be doing everything in your power to try to persuade the Government to sign up to the Paris Agreement so that we do not renege on our responsibilities as identified in that treaty?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Assembly Member Cooper, as a consequence of your representations, why do I not write to the Prime Minister and say that it is really important that we sign it as soon as possible? I will send you a copy of that representation as well.

Leonie Cooper AM: Thank you very much.

Post-Brexit Skills

Question Number: 2016/2540

20 Jul 2016

Len Duvall AM

Len Duvall AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Do you have any timelines for when we are likely to see some of the narrative around the taskforce and about the future direction of the London skills strategy?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There are number of different moving parts. One is, of course, the devolution of higher education area-based review. One is Jules beginning on 1 August. One is the desire to set up Skills for Londoners. I am afraid, because we want our partners in that to be businesses and employers, that they have been knocked off-course because of Brexit. Had that not happened, I would be able to today give you a timeline. Once Jules begins, what I can do, Chairman, is to arrange for the Deputy Mayor for Skills to meet with Assembly Member Duvall. I know that you have long experience as a previous leader of a council and also on the Assembly. What we should do is to have him sit down with you to work out a realistic timeline. Part of this is reassurance, which is really important.

Economy

The Current State of London's Economy

Question no: 2020/2746

17 September 2020

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you for your answer, Mr Mayor. At the last two Economy Committee meetings, both of your Deputy Mayors [for Business and for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement] have said that we will be getting an Economic Recovery Strategy from your office. When can we expect to see that and can you give us a flavour of what it might cover?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are working with the Transition Board that [The Rt Hon] Robert Jenrick [MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government] and I chair and also the Recovery Board chaired by the Chair of London Councils. They have set up eight missions. There is business representation on there, just to reassure you, from London First, the Confederation of British Industries (CBI), the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and others from small business across London. They are working on an economic strategy to do with recovery that uses eight missions. That is work in progress.

One of the reasons why I am keen to have this piece of research done is, as you will be aware, if you look at businesses in central London, whether the West End or Canary Wharf, the footfall is really important. A live question we have is not simply about how much realistically people can return to offices with social distancing but about the emerging trends going forward so that we can turn risks into opportunities. As soon as that work is done, I will be very happy, Chair, to share it with the Assembly.

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you. There are strategies coming from the Recovery Board, not from the Mayor's office?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. It is very important to work collegiately with colleagues across London. It really is not just City Hall's work. It is City Hall working with central Government, local government, the public sector, the private sector and - you will be pleased to know - civic society as well, which has lot of expertise in relation to the experience they have as well.

Shaun Bailey AM: That makes sense. Any delivery date? Any time they will --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We meet every two months, but in between the meetings there are various subgroups. There is, Chair, an Economic Taskforce and I am really happy for the Chair of that to write to the Member. Bearing in mind the work that the City Hall's Assembly Committee is doing, I am really happy to feed into that as well. I will undertake to get a letter written to the Assembly Member to give him an idea of timelines and any outputs as well.

The Current State of London's Economy (Supplementary) [2]

Question no: 2020/2746

17 September 2020

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Can I give you one example that I have been given by business that they really would like to do? I have noticed - and I am travelling perhaps too much on buses and the Tube at the moment - that TfL advertising hoardings seem to be less utilised than they were before COVID.

Can we try to use those advertising hoardings to push Kickstart? A lot of particularly C-suite decision-makers are back at work. The senior management are back at their desks. They are travelling on buses and the Tube. If we can encourage them to try to get young people into work, that would help.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am really happy to do that. To reassure you, we do work closely with the DfT about comms, but this is a different issue. Because the Government works in silos, we are not necessarily getting messages from other departments that we could be utilising.

Can I take that away? It is a cracking idea. We can amplify the schemes that businesses can be using. I have spoken to an employer who was quite attracted to the money he will get through that scheme - I think it is £1,500 - which will really help and is a real carrot. Can I take that away, Chair, and write back with how we are going to take that forward?

Budget repurposing

Question no: 2020/2853

17 September 2020

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Obviously we are going to look in far more detail at these various things and the Budget Committee is coming up. I will take on board what you have said and we will look at that further.

In the meantime, if I can just ask a couple of questions? One of the savings outlined in Mayoral Decision 2666 is £1.25 million from the New Year's Eve celebration. What is the current thinking around that celebration at the moment, with that sort of money removed from it?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are still looking into that. I sent an instruction out to try to save money across the piece where we can. As the Chair of the relevant Committee highlighted, we have already found some money from there. We will continue to find savings elsewhere. We have not yet finalised plans for what we will do instead of the fireworks on New Year's Eve. You will be aware, Assembly Member Hall, how important it is for our global reputation, bearing in mind the coverage around the world, to do something. As soon as we finalise plans I will share them with the Assembly, as indeed with Londoners.

Susan Hall AM: OK, because obviously it may have an impact on some of the councils, Westminster, etc. Any idea when you might be able to firm that up?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I would be disappointed if it was not in the next few weeks. Why do I not contact Assembly Member Hall's office later on today to let her know when that will be, if that is acceptable?

Susan Hall AM: That is very acceptable, thank you very much. This same report also mentions a £3 million saving on staff through not recruiting to vacant roles, but it does suggest that this may have an impact on mayoral programmes and projects. Which projects do you think this will impact the most?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thanks for that question. Yes, you are right, I have set out as part of that Mayoral Decision salary savings of £3 million. We have already reduced 71 programmes. We have made reductions in 71 programmes, including six that have had their funding removed for 2020/21. Again, Chair, I can, if the Assembly Member wants me to do so, get my team to drop her a note in relation to the specifics if that will help her.

Susan Hall AM: That really would. I would be really grateful if we could have that quite soon so we can get a picture of this. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Susan Hall AM: During this pandemic clearly there are things that we have not done, so money has been saved. There are various different programmes which you are more than aware of. I equally accept that there must be unexpected costs that have arisen. Looking at it just very, very generally and with a very ballpark figure, are we at a plus or a minus, if you want to put it in those sorts of basic terms?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I get the question now. I think we are at a plus, not a minus. I will tell you why, Assembly Member Hall. We are using some of our reserves to help with the minuses. The reason why I say I think we are at a plus is to think about the events organised in Trafalgar Square now that we would have done but for COVID - they are just some examples - or some of the other programmes we would have done but we cannot because of social distancing. Again, I am more than happy, Chair, in the note I send the Assembly Member to give her some idea of where we are now, almost like a running commentary, a 'run rate'. Obviously that might change between now and the financial year.

Susan Hall AM: Yes, I totally understand that. That would be very, very helpful for us going forward with our Budget [and Performance Committee] meetings. Do you have a ballpark figure that you think we might be slightly in a plus?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): A lot of the savings we have identified already were used, as you have suggested. I cannot give you the figure now but you will know what I have tried to do is get the GLA to try to make as many savings as we can to avoid the frontline MPS and fire service having to make in-year savings. Again, I can drop you a note in relation to the 'run rate'.

However, as you alluded to in your previous question, there could be more expenditure because of unforeseen things, particularly with a second wave. One thing to add there, which is worth you being aware of, is around homelessness. We, for example, have directed some of the money that we saved or that was in the reserves around homelessness. With the weather getting worse and a potential second wave, for example, there could be more expenditure there than would otherwise be the case. You have to take the 'run rate' with a pinch of salt because it could fall behind over the next few weeks and months.

Susan Hall AM: I totally understand that and I am very, very happy to hear that you might protect the police and the fire brigade. As you know, the blue light services are a passion of myself and many Londoners. I will leave it at that. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

Navin Shah AM (Chair): Mr Mayor, I have a request from other Members. If you can circulate your correspondence on what you have just committed to to all Members, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, Chair. The note we do to Assembly Member Hall, I am more than happy to CC the entire Assembly, for obvious reasons. Apologies, I should have said that.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2020/2543

16 July 2020

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: I have written to you about this already, asking if you would consider attending in their absence. As you are the Mayor, that would be the most beneficial, I am sure, to Londoners. Failing that, will you please work to arrange an appropriate representative to attend on your behalf? Thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you very much, Assembly Member Hall, for your question and the way you asked it as well.

Can I look into this and get back to you through the usual channels? You raise a good point in relation to the importance of you hearing from us. What I will do, Chair, is respond to Susan Hall [AM] through my office later on today, if that is OK.

Susan Hall AM: I am very grateful. Thank you.

International co-operation and COVID-19 initiatives

2020/2019

18 June 2020

Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: Thank you for that very comprehensive answer. All over the world now cities, as you pointed out, are grappling with huge rises in unemployment and tragically this is going to impact most on young Londoners - long-term impact - who are already feeling pretty despondent about their future. This week GLA Economics announced that we would be losing,

in this year, 500,000 jobs. Here is an idea: the Shadow Business Secretary has suggested the creation of a zero-carbon army of young people. As I said, it is going to impact mostly on young people, certainly on their long-term prospects. There is a huge potential here for new jobs in retrofit, in construction, in nature conservation. There are others as well. My question is, when you put into the fiscal statement that is coming out next month from the Chancellor, are you going to ask for job creation schemes for young people and particularly for green job creation schemes?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. These are some of the conversations I have been having with the nine metro mayors across the country because they also want to do this as well, because also they, like me, are best-placed to do this rather than civil servants in Whitehall. Part of this is what you said, the job creation schemes, part of it is reskilling or skilling up people, Londoners, to have the skills for these jobs. Some of the other areas are, for example, potentially electrifying transport. Some of the other areas are expanding community energy. You touched upon the retrofitting programmes. We are quite keen for the Government to devolve to us further resources and powers to do just that. We have got our education, but also we are keen to make sure other areas we can get resources to help them have the skills for the jobs that could be created. I want a green recovery, a sustainable recovery and not a return to business as usual.

Nicky Gavron AM: Yes. Here is one suggestion that you might want to put to him, which is that the eco funding that currently is a levy on all our household electricity and gas bills and goes to the utilities is taken from the utilities and given to you. Then London might get its fair share, which would amount to about £100 million a year and in fact would be a very helpful stimulus for a much more expanded retrofit programme, but that is just a suggestion.

I wanted to get on to another question. This is a quote and it really in a sense reinforces what you have just been saying. It is a quote from Downing Street and it goes like this, "To get this country back on its feet, we need mayors to be at the forefront of the local recovery". You have made that statement. It is cities that know their local needs. That was said by Downing Street I think after you and the other metro mayors had met the Prime Minister, so that was last month. Currently, I do not think I am exaggerating to say that the local government, city government, is handcuffed to central Government. If you are going to get those freedoms, those powers, those finances, you are going to need help with that, but I am just wondering exactly what you might be asking for so that we can not just build to the world that we came from, build a recovery to the world that was, but build forward to a new and more equitable and, if possible, green recovery.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Those are various points well made, Chair. Firstly, I like the idea of the eco levy being spent where it is raised. You will be aware the Government tends to tax Londoners and spend it elsewhere. I will make sure my team makes a note of us making representations around the eco levy.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [2]

Question Number: 2020/2096

18 June 2020

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Can I nail you down, please, on this budget guidance? Clearly, there is an awful lot of work that has to be done on this by the [London Assembly's] Budget and Performance Committee. You are saying in the next week or two. Our first meeting to look at this is on 7 July [2020]. I do not want the documents the night before so that we cannot look at them properly. Can I pin you down, please? When will we have the budget guidance through?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): As soon as we can. If it is not ready in final form, Assembly Member Hall, I can try to make sure that you as the Chairman [of the Budget and Performance Committee] have a draft version by next week. Does that work for you?

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [3]

Question Number: 2020/2096

18 June 2020

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Yes, please, Chair, if I could. Thank you. Good morning, Mr Mayor. There is one issue, in all seriousness, you missed in your update and that is job creation and job protection in London. Can I give you two examples where you have power to do something that will really help real Londoners?

The first is [The Rt Hon] Robert Jenrick's [MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government] letter to you of 10 June [2020] on shovel-ready projects, which I believe all mayors and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) have to respond to by today. My first question is: have you got that letter, are you going to respond today and can you send a copy to the Assembly, please, on shovel-ready projects to kick-start the economy?

My second point is, in terms of planning, you have recovered some of the largest job-creating large planning applications in recent weeks and months. When will you fix the date for these public hearings, please, and when will you put that on the Greater London Authority (GLA) website? Thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank the Assembly Member for those really sensible questions.

In relation to Robert Jenrick, just to reassure Assembly Member Devenish, we have been working really closely together over the last few weeks with MHCLG and City Hall and Robert Jenrick in particular and me. The letter will go today and it does include a list of shovel-ready projects.

Assembly Member, I need to get permission from MHCLG. If they are happy for me to make the letter public, I can do so, but at the very least I am sure they will be agreeable to me releasing it to the Assembly. Subject to them agreeing that, I am very happy, Chair, to share that with the Assembly at least, but it does have a large list of shovel-ready projects. You will be pleased to know because I know of your interest as constituency Member that it does

include Hammersmith Bridge as well and the short-term funds that could really help in relation to that.

In relation to job creation and the second question, you will be aware of the difficulties with COVID-19. We are trying to set up these hearings virtually. What I will do is make sure, Chair, again, with your permission, to let colleagues know when those dates are, but I was told as recently as yesterday that we have some dates pencilled in. We have to speak to the various parties to make sure it works for them. You will be aware that some of the residents often have to check they have the facilities, but subject to those conditions I am more than happy to share at least the draft dates, just to reassure you we are making progress. Our officers have worked really hard to do so.

GLA Budget 2020/1527

21 May 2020

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Sorry. My screen froze completely so I missed the last part of that. Thank you for what you said, Mr Mayor, although I did not get the benefit of the end part of it. Can I ask you, then, as this is so critical to London, will you be prepared to come to the next Budget and Performance Committee meeting and answer far more in-depth questions on what we are going to be doing in the budget because it is very, very urgent?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am always happy to come to the Committee, so I am sure we can organise that.

TfL Finances 2020/1539

21 May 2020

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: You are saying what you have said before, with respect. I have two points.

Firstly, a fact check from this morning, please, Mr Mayor. On *Good Morning Britain (GMB)*, the television (TV) show, you confirmed that it was you and not the Government that made you do the Congestion Charge. You told the Assembly it was the Government and you told breakfast TV that it was you. Which is it, Mr Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can read you what the Government made me do. Would that help you?

Tony Devenish AM: I have the clip in front of me of what you actually said on *GMB* on TV, Mr Mayor, so I think we will let Londoners decide. Please publish the advice on the bailout as soon as possible --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I want to publish it --

Tony Devenish AM: Can I move on to a second point because I am running out of time? Can you confirm there will be no further slippage on Crossrail's most recent projected opening dates of summer 2021 to summer 2022, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, I cannot. Crossrail is looking into the implications of COVID-19 on both timescales and finances. What I am happy to do is - because I know this is of huge interest to the Assembly - once I have an answer from the Crossrail Chair and Chief Executive, to write to all Assembly Members so that they are cognisant of where we are. Of course also I will be making public, unlike the Secretary of State for Transport, what the advice from Crossrail is in relation to that issue.

Food insecurity during COVID-19
2020/1589

21 May 2020

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. A coalition of charities, including the Child Poverty Action Group, the Children's Society and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have called for a temporary coronavirus emergency income support scheme because they, like you, recognise that many people actually do not have savings and are at great risk of defaulting on rent and mortgage payments. Will you support that request and make that request to Government?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to look at the details. As I say, it sounds like a no-brainer to me. Let me look into that and then publicly show my support for that.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you.

Black History Month and racial inequalities
2019/20046

17 October 2019

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Thank you very much. Can you let me know in writing how you are getting on with the WIN initiative that has supported 200 young black men into employment opportunities? I would welcome that in writing, please.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely.

Consultants and Agency Staff
Question Number: 2019/14380

18 July 2019

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Excellent, that is good news, Mr Mayor. However, in a written question to me you said that it was not possible to provide an annual breakdown of expenditure on consultants and temporary staff. How can you get a grip of it properly if you are not measuring it?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are measuring it. I am not sure what you refer to. Apologies. I do not remember the letter. On a quarterly basis we do monitor in the direction

we are going. What we are trying to do is reduce the recruitment times to reduce the gap. I had happy to look into what you have been told. I cannot recollect the letter. I am sorry.

Susan Hall AM: It would be good if you could look into it because the answer on the consultant side was:

“Expenditure on consultants is set out in decision forms and published on the GLA’s website as ... the category is so broad that it is not possible to provide a breakdown.”

It must be if it is there. Either it is there or it is not there. It is all very unclear. This is why we asked the question.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I look into this? I note the Chair of the Budget and Performance Committee [Gareth Bacon AM] is sitting next to you. I am surprised we cannot do because I am sure the Budget and Performance Committee looked into it. Can I take this away and come back to you and write to both the Chair and to Susan Hall as well?

Consultants and Agency Staff

Question Number: 2019/14380

18 July 2019

Susan Hall AM

Susan Hall AM: Some of these staff members who are receiving money from the public payroll are being paid through the public service companies and therefore are using this as a tax dodge. Do you think it is acceptable that people receiving public money are minimising their tax in this way?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, that should not be happening. As I have explained in my answer, there are sometimes reasons why we have no choice but to use either agency staff or consultants. What it should not be is a way of avoiding or evading the proper paying of taxes. If you want to do it confidentially, you can always let me know if you know of any cases where that is happening. I am happy to look into it to make sure it is not happening.

Night time economy workers

Question Number: 2018/3041

22 Nov 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Is the research that you have just done going to mean that you will update your Culture Strategy with a more robust recommendation on the cultural industries paying the London Living Wage?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have already said that I want to see everyone who works in London receiving the London Living Wage. If you do a hard day's work or a hard night's work, you should get decent pay for doing it. That means that the Good Work Standard I will be launching early next year [2019] will encourage employers of night-time or daytime workers to be Living Wage employers, so of course.

Night time economy workers

Question Number: 2018/3041

22 Nov 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: That sounds great but will you have a target for the numbers after it has been in place for a year?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Once we launch it properly next year [2019], yes, that is a good idea. We will have a target and metrics about how we go forward.

We did this sort of thing with the Living Wage. Since I have become the Mayor, the number of Living Wage employers has gone up hugely at the same time as the Living Wage itself has gone up. That shows there is a good business case for paying decent pay for a decent day's work.

Caroline Russell AM: That is great. There will be a target in the Good Work Standard when it comes out.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not see why it should not. It is important to have aspiration, but it is also important to have metrics to measure success.

Benefit cap

Question Number: 2018/3354

22 Nov 2018

Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: Will you write to the next Secretary of State for Work and Pensions [The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP] to end the freeze on children's benefits before April [2019]?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I was going to write to her anyway to welcome her to the job and make the point about Universal Credit, but I will also make the point in relation to child benefits that you have referred to as well.

Fiona Twycross AM: That would be helpful. Thank you.

Energy Company Obligation

Question Number: 2018/1148

17 May 2018

Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie Cooper AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. I am really glad to hear that you have been pressing for the sub-regional target. Would you be prepared to share the content of your correspondence with Government? I think it is really important, the under-funding of not just households with children but also people who are sick and poor in London. We have been having a discussion in our questions about overuse of food banks and the impact on Londoners of the welfare reforms. Earlier on we were talking about the need for more housing at lower rents. There are massive costs that a number of Londoners are paying, particularly in the private-rented sector and elsewhere and those Londoners who are in those vulnerable

households. It would be really good to know that the Government is going to give us our fair share of ECO and when that might happen.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to share correspondence, Chairman, with Assembly Member Cooper.

London is Open

Question Number: 2018/1061

17 May 2018

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: A very brief response from me, Mr Mayor. I do see the London is Open for business campaign as a gateway to inward investment, but are you aware of a potential conflict, the Silvertown Quays development, that risks damaging relationships with a major overseas investor and sending a message that London is not open for some? The issue at Silvertown Quays appears to be one of transparency. It is unclear as to who is making decisions about investment into publicly owned land and how they are arriving at those decisions. Can I have your quick response, please, Mr Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure of the example you are referring to, but I am happy to look into it if there is a particular example you refer to and stuff, but it is really important that we do things properly. I am not sure what you mean.

Navin Shah AM: I have been in conversation with your team as well as the GLA, and this is something I would like you to look into because the matter is of an urgent nature. Can you please investigate the issue as a matter of urgency and pause the process to ensure that a transparent and proper process is observed? Can you please come back to me on this when you have investigated? Thank you.

Improving the financial health of young Londoners

Question Number: 2018/0939

17 May 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: That would be fantastic. Thank you. Do you know when you are hoping to get this summit to happen?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not have the date, but it is not far away. "Summer", I think, is the phrase the officials like me to use. They prefer seasons rather than dates.

Caroline Russell AM: OK, summer. I will chase you in September if it has not happened.

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Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There are two things. Firstly, it says autumn, not summer, and so apologies for that, but we will get you the date for the summit.

Improving the financial health of young Londoners

Question Number: 2018/0939

17 May 2018

Caroline Russell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am currently finalising plans for a summit at City Hall that will bring together local authorities, education providers, banks, charities and technology companies to identify how City Hall can best support partners in addressing these challenges. This summit will look to address a number of the recommendations covered in the

Short Changed report and I will happily extend an invitation for representatives of the Economy Committee to attend.

Improving the pay and quality of employment in London is also important for improving the financial health of Londoners. This year I will be launching my Good Work Standard that will promote further the London Living Wage and encourage more employers to pay their staff fairly. It will also look to promote the uptake of payroll-deducted loans for employees, as well as membership of credit unions, which are an important and vital alternative for people who are excluded from mainstream finance.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you for your very positive response to the Economy Committee report on the financial health of Londoners. I am really glad to hear you not only promising to host a summit but talking now about getting that organised. Bringing together technology innovators, fintech providers, voluntary and community sector organisations and education providers is really important if we are going to improve the financial health of Londoners.

There are going to be a lot of organisations that are keen to attend the summit, people working with some of the most marginalised groups in London and also some of the big banks with their corporate social responsibility functions. Which team within the Greater London Authority (GLA) is going to be organising your summit and which Deputy Mayor will this sit with?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will work with the new Chairman [of the London Assembly's Economy Committee] and you to make sure we get the right people there. I am happy to do that. This is about making sure we get the right people there. We would kick ourselves if they were not there. Chairman, I will arrange for my team to meet with the new Chairman and Caroline to make sure it is a success.

Glass ceiling

Question Number: 2017/4430

16 Nov 2017

Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: This is on the maternity pay gap. It is on the maternity employment rate, a supplementary question. We talked about the gender pay gap and I now want to talk about the motherhood pay gap. From the moment you become a mother and enter the workplace in this country you are disadvantaged. The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has produced some national research, not London research, which shows that a woman aged 42 in full-time employment is facing a pay penalty for being a mother of 11% over the lifetime of her job. She is always going to get about 11% less on average compared with a woman without children. I wonder whether you are going to do, or are doing, any work on working out what is this sort of the motherhood pay penalty in London where it will be, I think, much higher. If you could do that work then you could share your findings please with the Assembly.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): How do we stop a situation where if you are a mum you are less likely to progress in your career and you are more likely to earn less? How do we make childcare more accessible? A number of things we are doing with the good work practice, if I am frank, in relation to the pay gap between a mother and others in the workplace, or a mother and men in the workplace, that is not an issue we are looking at specifically but I am happy to discuss that with my Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney AM, about what work we can do, or works already been done which we can feed in to.

Nicky Gavron AM: The other thing is that, with the introduction of the benefit cap, women on low incomes now, it is getting worse for them and it is particularly so if you are a single mother. It means that you cannot access childcare until your children are two and you cannot afford it

obviously. You cannot get free childcare. Four single mothers, earlier this year, took the Government to court, and they took the Government to court on the basis that they could not take up the 16-hours of work because they could not get child-care. The judge ruled in their favour and said that it was unlawful of the Government to include mothers with children under two in the benefit cap. Can you believe this? The Government have appealed against this. I want to know if you are lobbying the government on this and if you can make sure that the judge's ruling is carried through.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am afraid, Chair, and I am embarrassed to say this, I am not familiar with the case, so can I look at the case and speak to the team about this because it is astonishing? By the way, the impact of the Government's benefit cap, particularly in London with the high cost of living we have in London. I am really happy to go and look at the judgement, Chair, and then consider what action we should take as a consequence of that.

Glass ceiling

Question Number: 2017/4430

16 Nov 2017

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Will you commit to introducing a pay gap audit across the GLA Group which would actually give us the evidence in terms of gender for BAME women?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will take up your challenge in relation to walking the walk amongst the GLA family because you are right, we have got to make efforts in relation to gender equality, race equality, but also when there is the double discrimination of BAME women. I am happy to work with you off line as well about ideas you have got to raise our game because we are nowhere near where we should be.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Yes. The other bit of evidence that I have found is a particular area that you have powers in and that is in the apprenticeship, the work that is going on, and there it is noticeable that women, in particular women of BAME heritage, are less likely to be in the higher level apprenticeships and are less likely to finish their training because of the obstacles they face, even though they are in the lower grades. I wonder if you could speak to your Deputy and ensure that that is an issue that he is minded on.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I take a personal interest in issues around diversity. The recent tranche of applicants for the apprenticeship scheme, and the good news is almost 60% of them were women, and the good news is almost 60% were BAME. But I take your point about retention and progression. Can I come back to you on that? I do not think it is one Deputy Mayor's role but I think it is a number of them need to take responsibility for this. Can I again come back to you about your challenge again about retention and progression? Because

if there are people falling down we need to address that. There is no point spotting somebody and not nurturing them all the way right to the top. So, again, can we discuss that off line? But it is not just one Deputy Mayor's responsibility; it is everyone's.

London Living Wage and Premiership Football Club

Question Number: 2016/4306

16 Nov 2016

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank you for what you said? Just to underscore what you said, we knew that our staff were being paid the London Living Wage but, as a result of information given to us by trade unions, we have discovered that subcontractors were not being paid the London Living Wage. We have put that right. I have tasked my Deputy Mayors and senior City Hall staff to make sure we root out any examples of others not being paid the London Living Wage.

You are right. People selling programmes on match day or selling pies or burgers who are independent contractors in many of these Premier League clubs are not getting paid the London Living Wage. I felt so strongly about this that I campaigned with the Leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, outside Highbury and even put on an Arsenal scarf --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): What a day for you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): -- which got me ribbed hugely, but it is really important. For somebody who, like me, is a football fan, the fact that only Derby, Everton, Chelsea, Luton and Hearts are accredited to pay the Living Wage embarrasses me as a football fan. You are being quite generous by referring only to Premier League clubs. Some of the clubs I have referred to - Derby, Hearts and Luton - are not English Premier League clubs and they pay the Living Wage.

We should be saying to the London Premier League clubs at the very least to pay the Living Wage. I am happy, Assembly Member Arnold, to write to them along the lines that you and I have discussed to make this point.

Self-employment

Question Number: 2016/3854

19 Oct 2016

Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: Thank you. You have answered most of my follow-up questions, but I did want to do a shameless plug for an excellent new report published by the Social Market Foundation this week on the issue of low pay in self-employment, focusing particularly on London and the UK. One of the recommendations in the report is around making sure that there is additional data that could be collected to look into exactly what the issue is and how it can be addressed and the extent of the problem.

Could you look into publishing data specifically on the pay of the self-employed in London? Would that be possible, do you think?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I saw that. I will ask my Economic Fairness Team to work with the Living Wage Foundation in raising awareness and also collecting the data you talk about.

Fiona Twycross AM: Great. Thank you.

Childcare in the capital

Question Number: 2016/1414

25 May 2016

Len Duvall AM

Len Duvall AM: Will you consider - I think the word is "consider" - allocating a small proportion of that sum to the issue of childcare? It sounds that you will in terms of the plan that you have outlined but, of course, you want it evidence based and you want to work with partners. Will you consider allocating a small proportion of that fund for some strategic interventions such as the ones you have already outlined - there may well be others - to this cause?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, this is a good example of good ideas from Assembly Members that I should consider. Can I go away and think about that? It is a cracking idea.

Education

Resolving London's Teaching Challenges

Question Number: 2019/9122

16 May 2019

Len Duvall AM

Len Duvall AM: In this fragmented education system that we have, there are some real challenges around that. I have mentioned it before, but can you use your voice in raising the support for support staff? Teachers are important and they are key. Good head teachers and leadership are key to providing the opportunities for our young people and to get improved grades and open up those opportunities. Equally, the unsung work done by support staff in terms of making that contribution goes unrewarded because others in authority do not speak up for them.

Will you do that? Will you use an occasion when you are in an education gathering to make mention of the work of support staff?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely.

Adult Education Budget

Question Number: 2019/6201

21 Mar 2019

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will ask Jules Pipe to work with Assembly Member Arnold to work out the best way of giving you the information you need to properly improve and help us raise our game.

Special educational needs and disability (SEND) inclusion in Skills for Londoners

Question Number: 2019/0278

17 Jan 2019

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Will you find time in your diary to meet up with some of these parents who, during our conversations with them, voiced their request to meet up with you? They know that you know, but they would just like maybe to be in the room with you.

Will you consider funding SEND best practice-sharing workshops or seminars to empower these families and practitioners to better navigate that complex maze associated with it, whether it is guidelines, legislation, services that are available, or what is going to be coming out of the AEB in September [2019] from City Hall? That will be another added, if you like, forest around what they have to deal with now. Will you consider those two asks?

[...]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am very happy to meet with the groups that you referred to at an appropriate time. We will liaise about doing that. [...] I will commit to carrying on doing that and I will make sure that Joanne [McCartney AM] and I follow up on the point about the meeting.

Skills for the Future

Question Number: 2018/2129

13 Sep 2018

Jennette Arnold AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you, Chairman. Thank you for your question. I am incredibly proud of the achievements young Londoners continue to make in their GCSE and A-levels this year despite some major Government changes to grading and tougher exams. London has some of the UK's most dynamic high-achieving schools and low-income students in London fare better than anywhere else, yet too many young people leave school without basic skills.

This afternoon I am meeting Amanda Spielman, Chief Inspector of [Education, Children's Services and] Schools, to discuss how we can work together with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) to address some of the challenges our young people in London face around education, serious youth violence, and children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

We are engaging more young people, in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds and girls, in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects and careers from an early age through my London Scientist Award and RE:CODE London programmes. This summer, we funded the expansion of the London Enterprise Adviser Network to offer every secondary school and college the opportunity to be matched with a senior volunteer from business by August 2020. Schools and colleges will be better connected to the world of work and know the skills that employers need.

My new £45 million Young Londoners Fund will help children and young people to fulfil their potential, particularly those at risk of getting caught up in crime. It will include community-led projects offered outside of school with a focus on skills development and experience in the world of work.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you for that full account. Just a question about this meeting this afternoon. I would welcome information about that meeting. Will that be minuted? Will you be able to share any outcomes or discussions that will take place?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, through you, of course I am more than happy to let colleagues know what happened with the meeting.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): That will be very useful.

Schools funding

Question Number: 2017/1748

22 Mar 2017

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): Can I ask whether you will be seeking a meeting with the Secretary of State [for Education] or one of the Ministers of Education?

If you do get that opportunity, it seems that one area that could be resolved between you and them is this issue about schools being asked to contribute to the Government's apprenticeship levy from April [2017] and whether that could be deferred or thought through again. This is absolutely nothing against the apprenticeship levy; it is about it being in schools. We were told by head teachers that when they were questioned this - and we were told by unions as well, which put this to the Government - they said that most employees in schools are already well qualified and so they did not really need the levy in schools. They were told to spend the money on cleaners. There are only so many cleaners and apprenticeships for cleaning that you can have in a school. What people do not appreciate is that if the schools do not spend this levy, this fund will then go back in the pot and those that have had nothing to do with the levy can then get it for free.

There is something that has to be done in terms of that particular fix in that policy. Could you explore that with your colleagues in the Government?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would be happy to explore that. It is news to me, that specific point you are raising. I have written to the Secretary of State and have asked for a meeting. I will be responding formally and I will make sure I take on board your points.

Impact on London of National Funding Formula for schools

Question Number: 2016/2006

22 Jun 2016

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): Just for information, Mr Mayor, in case you are not aware, this Assembly does have a cross-party Education Panel. I chaired that Panel in the last administration and we brought recommendations from our work on that cross-party panel to the former Mayor.

Through you, Chairman, it would be good if this Panel could bring together a summary of the work that it has done on this and other education issues to you. Would you be willing to accept that and consider those recommendations again and, hopefully, re-endorse them, if that is such a thing?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would do, Chairman. Just to echo that, the previous Mayor deserves credit for, with Jules Pipe [Chair, London Councils], writing to the Secretary of State along the lines that Assembly Member Arnold refers to. Of course, I will relook at that.

Impact on London of National Funding Formula for schools

Question Number: 2016/2006

22 Jun 2016

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): [---]

My follow-up question to you is following on from what you said about your officers, Mr Mayor. I do know that you have, for me, one of the best education teams in this building; GLA officers who have done a really great job in encouraging the education sector. Can you charge them with the job of monitoring and looking to gather London-wide intelligence so that our understanding of any impact can be brought to you as soon as possible and so that you can continue to make the case on behalf of London's children? They cannot be put in a position where they are left to go back to where they were. That is totally unacceptable. Would you agree with me?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a very good idea, Assembly Member Arnold. Just to reassure you, we will do that.

Environment

Ensuring clean air and space for people during lockdown

2020/1559

21 May 2020

Léonie Cooper AM

Léonie Cooper AM: Absolutely. We know that you have been going in to bat on that for us and also leading the way. We have already talked about Streetspace and I think a number of us are very excited by that. Again, one of the things that would enhance the street space and help some of those people who perhaps cannot ride a bicycle, we do want to see an increase in cycling, but what about grants for e-bikes, which make cycling so much more accessible for older Londoners and Londoners who just do not have the puff to do that? Some London boroughs already offer loans and grants for bikes. Can you work with them to extend that, maybe via TfL, but also to press the Government to support this?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. We persuaded the Government - not me, but others as well - with the advent of the first grants for electric vehicles. Similarly, bearing in mind how expensive some of the e-bikes are, but they are brilliant, they can be transformative to somebody. It just gives that bit of assistance that they need. The technology is moving so fast now and they are very easy, they are very adaptable, so congratulations to those boroughs that are currently giving the grants for the e-bikes. I am more than happy and I will get Heidi [Alexander, Deputy Mayor for Transport] and Will [Norman, Walking and Cycling Commissioner] to speak to you about what we can do, putting our heads together, in relation to lobbying the Government for some more assistance in relation to grants for e-bikes.

Zero emission rail services

Question Number: 2019/14194

18 July 2019

Caroline Russell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): First, can I explain? The premise to your question assumes that it is not fluctuating, so just to finish what I was saying, currently the standard grid mix, as I said, is renewable, nuclear and fossil fuel, but the proportions change on a second by second basis, dependent on weather conditions. We have looked at other options to speed things up from the Green Tariff because of the Government changes and less value for money, also renewable energy guarantees of origin. There are some downsides to doing that in relation to it does not bring new flows in. Power purchase agreements are the obvious thing to look into and so we are exploring what we can in relation to that.

Secondly, we are trying to reduce energy consumption. It is really important that we do so, but it is important, as you said, that we increase renewable generation. We want to play our role in doing so.

Caroline Russell AM: I am out of time, but if you could write to me with some interim targets, that would be brilliant.

Clean Air Day

Question Number: 2019/12201

20 June 2019

Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: I wondered if you might consider taking a lead from the Mayor of New York, Bill DeBlasio, who has recently announced a ban on glass buildings.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am really happy to look at what the New York Mayor is doing. Often they steal our ideas. I am happy to steal their ideas. I am more than happy to look into that. I will ask the Deputy Mayor for Planning [Regeneration and Skills] Jules Pipe to look into that.

Clean Air Day

Question Number: 2019/12201

20 June 2019

Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: Great. I have one final question. Two days ago also it was announced that the UK is going to host the 2020 United Nations Climate Summit. I know you have written to the PM and I am wondering what progress you are making on asking for it to be hosted in London.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Unless I have missed it, I am not sure it has been announced that we are hosting it. We have applied to be a host country and I have asked the PM for London to be the host city.

Nicky Gavron AM: We are going to be the host country.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Great. I have written to the PM asking for London to be the host city. There are number of reasons why we would be the right place to host the UN's twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) next year [2020] and I will let you know as soon as I hear from the PM whether it is this one or the next one.

Plastic tax

Question Number: 2018/3164

22 Nov 2018

Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie Cooper AM: Could you tell me - or perhaps you could write to me afterwards - about what meetings you and your officials have been having with [The Rt Hon] Michael Gove [MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] and his officials to try to make sure that this is pushed forward? Clearly you are saying we need help from the Government and it would be nice to know what City Hall has been doing to get them onside.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. One of the areas where, for example, it could give us assistance was in relation to reforming the package and producer responsibility system, which needs to happen by 2022. I will write to the Assembly Member and send out all the work we are doing lobbying the Government, where there are promising responses from the Government and where we think they need to go much further.

Stopping Heathrow Expansion

Question Number: 2018/1391

21 Jun 2018

Tony Arbour AM

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman): You will know, Mr Mayor, that the Assembly at its last meeting, in addition to asking you to do all that you can on it, said itself it would seek to do all that it could to stop this materialising. I wonder, Mr Mayor, as this matter goes through the Assembly committees - and clearly there are going to be ways, for example, in which it can give flesh to your Environment Strategy in relation to pollution - if you will accelerate consideration of any such committee report so that you may endorse them. I have no doubt, for example, that the Environment Committee is likely to say that it does not want to see thousands of children asphyxiated and deafened by the fruition of these proposals. Often what happens is, when we have reports that are given to you for your approval, there is not - and I appreciate that you are busy - instant approval for them. Can we be sure that you will support each of the Assembly's committees in seeking to thwart the proposal?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You make a very good point, Chair. We need to expedite my response to your report, particularly during the time period where we are discussing runway 3. Can I take that away and make sure that I am far quicker? Obviously, the force of the Assembly and the Mayor is far more effective than just the Assembly. Let me take that away and undertake to endeavour to meet your challenge to me.

ULEZ

Question Number: 2018/1350

21 Jun 2018

Gareth Bacon AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You have explained why your first question deserves a proper answer. Can I provide you with a specific answer of the breakdown? You are right to raise the question about the reassurance you require for the £90 million to £130 million, if it is the case that the previous scheme, though smaller, costs more. Can I go away and find --

Gareth Bacon AM: It is a TfL report. I am happy to send the report, Mr Mayor.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No. Can I go away and provide you a proper answer to your question? We want to make sure we do not plan to spend a small amount but the evidence suggests it is going to be a bigger amount. We want to make sure we get value for money.

Gareth Bacon AM: There are two issues. It is that but it is also the important 'within zone'. I am particularly keen that people who may have older vehicles, who do not use them every day, do not start picking up £12.50 charges every single day just because they happen to live inside the zone.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I will write to Assembly Member Bacon but if the Transport Committee wants a specific presentation on this as well, I am also happy to organise that. I will write to Assembly Member Bacon on the two issues raised, which I accept should be responded to.

Gareth Bacon AM: Thank you.

ULEZ

Question Number: 2018/1350

21 Jun 2018

Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: Where I am going with this, Mr Mayor, is, as you said, 3.7 million Londoners live within the expanded zone. It seems to me there has to be some measure of whether or not they are using non-compliant vehicles within the zone in order to make the policy effective. I think what you have just suggested is that we might be able to retrofit existing technology or repurpose existing technology within the zone.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The data we have does have a figure for the number of vehicles that are caught now. By natural progression, people buy new vehicles. Therefore, there is a mapping exercise of the number of vehicles that will not be compliant by 2021. The issue you raise is what happens with those vehicles that may be not compliant but are not being driven around, that they are not inadvertently paying the cost. That has not been an issue raised to me but I am very happy to go away and give you a specific answer.

Gareth Bacon AM: Yes, I would like to take you up on that because I think this might be something that TfL has not properly considered.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, can I write specifically on that issue, because I think it is a fair point?

Gareth Bacon AM: Building on that issue, Mr Mayor, how much will the cost of the infrastructure required to enforce the expanded ULEZ be?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That figure is available, and I think it is publicly available as well. I can find it for you now but that figure is available and has been part of consultation.

Gareth Bacon AM: Shall I help you there? The figure that I think TfL put in a response to its consultation document was between £90 million and £130 million. Does that sound familiar?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That sounds familiar.

Gareth Bacon AM: When you do come back to me, can you give me a breakdown as to how that figure has been arrived at?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am sure we can.

Biodiversity in the London Plan

Question Number: 2018/0214 **18 Jan 2018**

Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie Cooper AM: That is good to hear. Can I just also ask you about the work with the boroughs? In the draft London Plan in G1 it talks about green infrastructure, which is obviously incredibly important and that is why it is in both the Environment Strategy and the Transport Strategy, as well as the London Plan. It says that boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies, and it runs through a list of all the things that that should cover. It does not specifically talk about biodiversity action plans and, coming back to the principle around making sure that we have targets, I am very keen for the boroughs to continue to have targets as well. Perhaps they will automatically set them, but I would quite like the words "biodiversity action plan" to be included within G1. Is that a possibility that we could include that in the final version of the London Plan?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let us look into that.

Green Areas in London

Question Number: 2018/0309 **18 Jan 2018**

David Kurten AM

David Kurten AM: Yes, Mr Mayor, there is a difference between green cover and green open space. For example, if a building has a roof garden on it, you define that as having green cover, but that would not be green open space. The concern that many people in London have is that you can put up a new building, put a roof garden on it, for example, and you would lose some green open space, but then you are measuring green cover. You have lost the green open

space, but you are defining the green cover as being the same. If you excuse the pun, that is a cover for losing green open space. Is that not true?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am using the definition used by the previous guy. If you are not happy with the draft London Plan, we will look into the definition you want us to use, but the impression you were creating was I had invented a new definition to try to have a smokescreen.

Burning waste

Question Number: 2017/4961

14 Dec 2017

Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie Cooper AM: Would you ask the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy to work closely with those boroughs on how they can most effectively exercise break clauses so that we can start to get more food waste into the anaerobic digestors that are available in London? Evidence submitted to our waste inquiry at the Environment Committee has shown that they are all underused.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): First, can I suggest that I ask my Deputy Mayor to speak to London Councils about what advice and guidance London Councils can give these councils, as well as us, providing them with the expertise that we have?

Leonie Cooper AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

Banning the School Run

Question Number: 2017/2023

22 Mar 2017

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: London's air is dirty and it needs to be cleaned up. We accept that. My focus here is this. Have you done any modelling to suggest that this banning the 'school run' will help that at all?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

Shaun Bailey AM: What were the results of that modelling and can we have them?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can give you the results of that modelling.

Shaun Bailey AM: I am quite happy to be written to about that.

London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone

Question Number: 2017/2061

22 Mar 2017

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Mr Mayor. Just to be clear, there is absolutely no doubt and I do totally acknowledge that you are very serious about cleaning up our air. I was very glad to hear you say that nothing is off the table. That will give people a lot of hope. What I wanted to ask was, before you ran the second ULEZ consultation, did you undertake a feasibility study into the option of a properly London-wide ULEZ for all vehicles, not just lorries?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We looked at the responses received from the first consultation. Could I just explain? I first consulted soon after I was elected. People were asked to provide their views on having a ULEZ for light and heavy vehicles in two questions in the July 2016 consultation. By opting for London-wide for both questions, someone could indicate that they wanted a London-wide ULEZ for all vehicles, as your question suggested. About 31% of respondents who answered both questions did this. I will give you a comparison: 71% supported all vehicles up to the North and South Circulars. That is just to give you an idea of the difference in responses we received. We ran with that.

Also, the areas with the worst pollution are primarily in central and inner London, as well as the strategic road network in outer London. We think our solution addresses where the worst problems are and also takes on board the responses we received from the public.

Caroline Russell AM: Is there a document? Was there a study on the effects of doing it for the whole of London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is and I have the numbers here. I am sure we can share them with you.

Caroline Russell AM: Do not run through the numbers now, but if it is possible to have those, it would be fantastic.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course we can. We will organise that, yes.

London's Parks and Green Spaces

Question Number: 2016/4311

16 Nov 2016

Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie Cooper AM: I am hoping that Deputy Mayor Rodrigues would be willing to do that. On the other side in terms of losing the vital resources at local authority level such as the tree and biodiversity officers - so it is not just how we relate to the community groups that know those green spaces so well - is there anything that Shirley and her team can do to support those local authorities in coordinating, retaining and enhancing these vital resources? I do think there is maybe something that we can do here from the centre that will help them. If we lose all our tree and biodiversity officers, we are not going to have those experts available.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You will be aware that was raised last time in a mischievous way about my commitment to planting more trees. Shirley is working on a plan to carry through my ambition to plant more trees in London. As part of that plan, why do I not speak to her about making sure we maintain what we have?

I cannot pretend we can replace the resource that local authorities have to use. You will know over the last five/six years that some councils have lost 40 to 60% of the help they get financially and for reasons that we can understand. We do not agree with them; we understand. Often, this is an easy thing to cut. As part of those proposals, why do I not also ask Deputy Mayor Rodrigues to look into what help we can give to maintain some of the stuff we have as well?

Energy for London

Question Number: 2016/3299

14 Sep 2016

Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie Cooper AM: It is Community Energy Fortnight that this Mayor's Question Time is falling in, with over 50 events being held nationally, kicked off by a big conference in Oxford for Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales. Recently, last week, a number of community groups got together in London and they were talking about setting up Community Energy London to create a point of contact for City Hall.

I wondered if you had thoughts on that, particularly bearing in mind that recent London Community Energy share offers have been oversubscribed and subscribed before the time was up, highlighting a very clear appetite from ordinary Londoners to invest in community energy, with central Government now effectively side-lining its support for community energy despite obvious vibrancy and interest. How will you be looking to ensure that community energy thrives in the capital and will it form part of Energy for London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I know the Assembly Member has expertise in this area, but there is a great appetite from Londoners around this area; just look at the responses to consultation in relation to air quality.

Can I suggest that the Assembly Member meets with Shirley [Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy] as soon as possible? I will try to see if I have access to her diary to make sure it happens sooner rather than later because what I want to do is make sure that she is plugged into some of the energy and excitement taking place in stakeholders across London.

Leonie Cooper AM: That would be extremely helpful and thank you very much for that.

Energy for Londoners

Question Number: 2016/1934

22 Jun 2016

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Just to be absolutely clear, are you talking about a fully licensed municipal energy company - like the "big six" or a smaller energy company like Good Energy - that will sell electricity directly to the public and businesses or are you talking about encouraging more small suppliers and providing them with a market, for instance, to sell their energy to TfL? Is it a fully licensed company that you are talking about that can sell energy to Londoners?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is the idea, Chairman. The reason I deliberately referred to what is happening in Nottingham, Bristol, Scotland and other parts of the country is because there are lessons we can learn. Some of the work the officers are doing is around feasibility and learning the lessons because we do not want to reinvent the wheel and it is important that we learn the lessons.

However, that is not the limit of our ambition. We also want Energy for Londoners to deliver a wide range of energy and fuel poverty programmes and projects, including energy efficient building retrofits, solar deployment, fuel poverty alleviation, demand-side reduction, smart metering rollout support and developing funding and finance initiatives.

Caroline Russell AM: If this is what it really seems like, there are going to be an awful lot of people in London who will be very pleased to hear that. Do you have a timeline for reporting back on what officers find out from what has been happening in Bristol and Nottingham?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy, Chairman, to keep the Assembly Member updated on progress because I am sure she has ideas that can feed into this as well.

Animal Welfare Strategy

Question Number: 2016/1416

25 May 2016

Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: [---] will you undertake to precisely define in your new London Plan and flag up before that the very special circumstances in which you will allow any building on those sites?

[---]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I think about that and look into that? You are right; we have to think about design, about definition and about providing guidance, because the London Plan is there for years. We are thinking already about seeing if we could have Supplementary Planning Guidance in other areas do the detailed work required to make sure the London Plan can withstand the changes over the next few years, for example bringing back into use a brownfield site that is now the land you described because nature has taken its course. Let me go away and think about that and whether we can do that. What I would not want to do is provide definitions that become out of date because of things changing and evolving, but I take your point. I want the plan to be useful but also to be quite clear that we have to protect the precious heritage we have.

Nicky Gavron AM: Yes. Nature can colonise anywhere and the brownfield sites have to be built on but we have a problem with ambiguity and room for manoeuvre around what are the very special circumstances under which you are allowed to build on Green Belt land.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Local authorities would welcome that guidance because what local authorities want, and developers want, is certainty. Nobody wants to go through a planning process and then be challenged, have an appeal and stuff. I take your point. I do not want to give a definitive answer, Chairman, because then Nicky will come back and tell me off next time.

Nicky Gavron AM: Fair enough.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me do the work and I will come back with an answer.

Animal Welfare Strategy

Question Number: 2016/1416

25 May 2016

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: [---] As the in-house animal hugger, would you - unlike the previous Mayor - be introducing an animal welfare strategy during the course of your term?
[---]

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We have not got there yet but I am happy to listen to representations you might have in relation to that.

Fire and Resilience

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [13]

Question Number: 2020/2542

19 March 2020

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Thank you, Chair. This is probably for [Dr] Fiona [Twycross AM]. What steps has the LFB put in place to maintain acceptable response times and fire safety work through the pandemic? If an operational firefighter catches the virus, it is very likely others from the same watch and indeed from the same station will also be affected as operational personnel spend so much time in close proximity to each other. Similar risks will apply to control and civilian staff.

What measures are you introducing for fire stations, control and LFB headquarters to resist the spread of the disease and how will the LFB maintain sufficient staffing across its operational and other staff to meet response times?

Dr Fiona Twycross AM (Deputy Chair, GLA Strategic Co-ordination Group - COVID-19): That is quite a long question and so, if I miss a bit, please come back to me.

Like other parts of the GLA family, the LFB is following closely the Government and Public Health England advice. From last weekend, measures were put in place to allow only essential visitors to control to protect control as a key part of the operation of the LFB.

Firefighters have now been asked to sign up for a system of prearranged overtime to cover any shifts when their colleagues are unwell or self-isolating. As of this morning - I got figures just before this meeting - there have been over 1,000 applications of people wanting to sign up to do this. I am very grateful, as I know the Mayor will be, for the support of the London region of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in encouraging their members to sign up for pre-arranged overtime. Applying this system should increase the LFB's current capacity to improve resilience and the aim will be to maintain the current target response times. If it is helpful, in my role as Chair of the Fire and Resilience Committee, I can make sure that I do get in touch with you if there is any deviation from that as well.

We have also made sure that staff have been contacted telling them to work from home where possible. From Union Street, it is an emergency service and we do need people to maintain the service, but the majority of those people not working in operational roles have been encouraged to do that if possible. Those who are living with vulnerable people have been also encouraged to work from home.

We are really keen to make sure that we keep the service going. We have agreed with the LFB to suspend some of the home fire safety visits. This will not include suspending the inspection work because it is, as you will be aware, really important that it continues, but the LFB will continue to take advice both from the Government and from Public Health England and will work with colleagues in the National Fire Chiefs Council to make sure that the LFB meets all the requirements of the service while observing the need to keep firefighters safe.

Andrew Dismore AM: People who are vulnerable are those who are most likely to die or be badly injured in fires at home and they are also the people now being told to self-isolate due to the virus.

Are you concerned there could be an increase in fires affecting vulnerable people as a result of self-isolation? You mentioned home fire safety visits. Could they be reoriented to check vulnerable people who are self-isolating or social distancing whilst also protecting our workforce?

Dr Fiona Twycross AM (Deputy Chair, GLA Strategic Co-ordination Group - COVID-19): There are some issues in this. This is where the need to make sure everything is joined up is important because we are also needing to make sure that firefighters do not inadvertently infect vulnerable people. We do need to work this through in terms of making sure vulnerable people are safe through the SCG, not just anticipate that one agency is able to solve the problem that you quite rightly identify as a problem by itself.

The LFB is reviewing all the communications messaging. The [London Fire] Commissioner has said that they are looking at making sure that people are not at increased likelihood of fire. The LFB communications messaging will take into account the fact that more people will be self-isolating, and they will continue to push out advice regarding smoke alarm testing and keeping safe from fire. They are working to offer online fire safety checks but, mindful of the point that Assembly Member Hall made, I will go back and ask the Commissioner exactly how that will work for people who do not have that online access.

Sprinklers

Question Number: 2019/14593

18 July 2019

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: I appreciate the funding constraints here. It is a question of seeking other partners from the industry and so on to see how, from City Hall, from your office, we can prioritise this so that something is done rather than waiting forever.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am really happy to arrange for the Deputy Mayor [for Fire and Resilience] to meet with you to discuss potential funding options. I am more than happy to look at potential funding options. The obvious one is the Government, but if there are other options, of course we will look into that.

“Shocking... horrifying... slow”: the Government’s response to removing flammable cladding post-Grenfell

Question Number: 2019/14512

18 July 2019

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Does this illustrate the complete failure of the Government to get to grips with the demands on private homeowners, too little too late, and will you write to the Housing Minister asking him to intervene on these residents’ behalf?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will. If the Assembly Member, Chair, wants to send me the details, I will send representations again to the Government in relation to this issue.

Dame Judith Hackitt's Review - Omission of Sprinklers A Missed Opportunity

Question Number: 2018/1674

21 Jun 2018

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: I accept that there are funding concerns, but from your perspective the point is that this is a programme planned over a five-year period. Your share of £25 million means £5 million is almost like a starter fund for a year. Is this something that you cannot seriously go back and look into, because what this needs is a good kick-start? That is something that - through your leadership and working and lobbying the Government very, very hard - can be achieved. This is something I think we need to do. I am very heartened with the Fire Commissioner's response to the report, where she has said that the Fire Brigade is considering its approach around mandatory sprinkler requirements for buildings over 80 metres. While the Fire Authority is doing its job in that sense to lobby the Government, I think from our perspective this is something very, very worth seriously looking into.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Your question is based on a number of hypotheticals: (1) the Government agrees to match the fund, (2) that you can match the fund on a *pro rata* £5 million a year if the Government does the £5 million a year, which is £10 million a year, and (3) we are able to find the £25 million over the course of the next five years. I am not sure that those hypotheticals are realistic. What I am happy to do is to go back and revisit correspondence I have had with the Government to see if we can get some support from it in relation to these particular areas. I think you are right that the evidence is crystal clear. Retrofitting sprinklers will lead to these buildings being far safer. Let me revisit this and see what we can do.

Cladding concerns post-Grenfell

Question Number: 2018/1149

17 May 2018

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: You mentioned 158 social blocks across the country having this sort of cladding. Have you made any assessment or do you know of any assessment of the number of those that are actually in London itself or is there just a figure for the whole country at the moment?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): For the social blocks of housing associations and councils, there is a figure for London. The councils have been working very closely – all councils of all parties across London – with the London Fire Brigade to make sure inspections take place. The London Fire Brigade has been working around the clock for these inspections to take place. We have a figure which I can give to you. I do not have a figure for the private blocks for obvious reasons and that is one of the big concerns people have.

Tom Copley AM: OK. If you could let us know the figure afterwards, that would be very helpful. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

Fatal fires

Question Number: 2018/0877

22 Mar 2018

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Thank you for that answer. I join you in congratulating Fiona on her appointment.

However, the number of fatalities seems to have gone up significantly this year so far, with the 15 deaths you referred to in under three months. February was particularly bad, with I think eight in one month. They have occurred in a dozen different boroughs and so it is a London-wide concern.

The victims, as you indicated, on the whole are elderly and also vulnerable. You are right that investigations are still going on and also an inquest, but it looks like only three were known to social services and, as you say, only two had a LFB fire-safety visit. There are clearly vulnerable people falling through the gaps, which is becoming a public health issue. What can social services, LFB and City Hall do to try to identify and reduce the risks of fire to such people?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This is a really important point because it cannot be beyond the wit of us to share data better, LFB, local councils and others as well. We can even give the safeguards councils and others reasonably want around data protection. Let me go away and speak to the Fire Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor to see how we can promote better sharing of data. We know older and vulnerable people are more likely to be the victims. We should know who they are. Therefore, we should be able to micro-target some of the assistance. The LFB does, to be fair. When it does the home visits it is because it has received information. Let us see if we can improve that, bearing in mind some of the challenges around data protection sharing generally.

Thames Water

Question Number: 2018/0859

22 Mar 2018

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Mr Mayor, I am very pleased you have highlighted the plight of vulnerable people and I, too, have concerns about whether the list of vulnerable people is actually up-to-date and accurate. I would ask you to raise that as a constant in those talks that you are having.

My constituents had water cut off for a considerable time and at one stage there were only two bottle plants where they could go to collect, one in south London and one in north London, which was useless for my constituents. It implied that in those dangerous conditions they had to drive to get water. I noticed on Twitter that someone tweeted they had a seven-week-old baby and all the shops around her were out of bottled water. What should she do?

In a crisis like this, there are those vulnerable lists that Thames Water and other water companies have, but there also must be a separate procedure for people who do not meet that criteria but who are in genuinely dire straits to get some personal help. Will you raise that with them, too?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course, we will raise that with them and make sure that they are sent a transcript of what you have just said. It is really important that they understand the problems there were this time. The [proposed] Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience has recently been appointed. Why do I not ask Deputy Mayor Fiona Twycross [AM], as Chair of the London Resilience Forum, to look into this issue? This sort of data capturing is important because there could be other sorts of instances in London where we need to know who the vulnerable people are and how to help them.

One of the great things about the water problems that were recently experienced that Assembly Member Cooper and I will have shared is the great neighbourhood spirit. You saw friends coming to each other and neighbours, people who had not spoken in the past. I am sure the woman you talked about, hopefully, had a response with the seven-month-old baby. Although it was good to see that sort of resilience amongst Londoners, we have to plan for this much better and prepare for this. I will ask Fiona [Twycross AM] to look into this as Chair of the London Resilience Forum and I will make the points you have so forcibly made to Thames Water and Affinity as well.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you.

Response to Grenfell Tower fire

Question Number: 2017/5216

14 Dec 2017

Navin Shah AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course. Chair, can I suggest that I arrange for Fiona Twycross [Fiona Twycross AM, Chair, LFEPA] to meet with the Assembly Member to discuss the proposals?

Navin Shah AM: This is at London Plan level and how the London Plan can help to ensure fire safety.

London's Population Growth

Question Number: 2017/4102

12 Oct 2017

David Kurten AM

David Kurten AM: Have you got any more information about how we are going to prevent London from having a water deficit in the future?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The reality is many of the pipes are Victorian pipes and have not been maintained properly. In addition to improving the maintenance of the pipes, they have got plans for the reservoir that you talked about. I am happy to send you the details of the plans and Thames Water are in advanced stages in relation to that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, for the record.

Tower blocks

Question Number: 2017/3183

10 Aug 2017

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: My specific request is for the GLA - your office - to look into anything that we, the GLA, could have done better because I accept your point that a disaster is imminent in such a big city. There is always something that can happen and so the GLA needs to look at its own response. Are we doing something specific about that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are. We are reviewing. We always have a debrief and a review on how we responded to an incident, not just this one - it could be a terror incident; it could be another incident - if there are lessons to be learned. We are looking into what lessons we can learn but, obviously, you will appreciate there are more lessons we may learn from the public inquiry as well. Of course we are; so by the way is the LFB; so by the way is the MPS because they were involved in Grenfell Tower, as indeed we are, too.

Shaun Bailey AM: Could we ask for those details or the conclusions of that report to be made public?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am very happy to.

Shaun Bailey AM: The last thing I would say is: is it possible for the GLA, maybe with London Councils, to practice for a disaster? One of the reasons the fire service responded so quickly was because they had the practice. It is very different actually going through the process than just making the notes and assuming that it will happen on the day. Is that at all possible?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Just to reassure you, that does happen. London Councils do lots of planning and preparation around this area. They have a resilience team. You will be

aware that the Chief Executive of the City of London is the person who is involved in the work that the taskforce is doing. That is because of the planning and preparation that takes place. I am afraid it relies upon a council asking for help and there are several discussions about what happens when a council is slow off the ground in asking for help. Three days is a long time. For example, when there was that issue with Camden a few weeks later when Camden was worried about the safety of buildings, Camden asked for help straightaway. That is an issue for London Councils. We work closely with London Councils and I am happy to feed in any particular issues that you have. That resilience and preparation does take place already.

Shaun Bailey AM: Please do because Camden's response was based on the learning from K&C's response and if the Mayor of London's office can suggest to councils, "You should take this as an opportunity to learn, to practice, to name the officers who will be responsible in the event of something of this nature and this horrific scale happening". Unless we actually go through the process beforehand, it will always be slower at that point of crisis.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, with your permission, I am very happy to get from London Councils a briefing note of actually what the resilience plans are and I will circulate that. If there are additional points Assembly Members want to raise with London Councils, I am happy to facilitate that.

Health

Face to face GP Appointments

Question Number 2020/3734

15 October 2020

Tony Devenish AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I understand the NHS will now be offering a mix of face-to-face, telephone and online GP appointments, and I am reassured to hear that if patients need to be seen face-to-face, they will be. The NHS must continue to offer face-to-face appointments. A new services model of care must be designed and planned carefully and with close engagement with the communities who will be most affected. I will continue to discuss the important issue with the NHS London Regional Director [Sir David Sloman] and I will ask my Health Advisor, Dr Tom Coffey [OBE], to take this issue up at his next GP roundtable.

Tony Devenish AM: In terms of conducting a survey of London GPs directly to see and to encourage them to do both face-to-face as well as video appointments, as my question says, will you conduct a survey of London GPs to ensure, in addition to utilising video appointments, that you do encourage face-to-face?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): As the NHS will continue to offer the mixed model, I am not sure what purpose a survey would serve. However, for the reasons you allude to in your question, I am more than happy for my Health Adviser to raise it at the GP roundtable. If there is a need to undertake a survey, we can do so, but I am slightly puzzled as to the point. If it is the case that the NHS is offering a mixed model for the reasons that we agree on, I am unsure what purpose a survey serves.

Tony Devenish AM: It is just one method, Mr Mayor, to try and use your office to publicise within London that this is very important. I think we would agree that during COVID-19, many people were too scared to use the NHS, which is not a good thing as we can all agree on. It is how we can use your office - and again, I often use the example of TfL hoardings on buses or the Tube - to encourage people to seek face-to-face medical treatment when necessary.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We are in agreement and so I suggest that my Health Advisor speaks to the Assembly Member to discuss any ideas he has because we both want the same thing. We may well agree on the means as well and so, rather than give the impression that we do not agree, let me ask Dr Coffey to speak with Assembly Member Devenish and see if we can do what is required.

London's Campaign to Boost Flu Vaccination Rates (Supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2020/3578

15 October 2020

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Andrew Boff AM: Will you be restoring the flu jab campaign for TfL staff that was discontinued when you became Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): TfL staff are encouraged to have the flu jab. I am not sure about the particular campaign you refer to. I am more than happy to look at it to see if that

campaign needs to be reinstated. However, the measures we are taking already will lead to more people taking that up but I am more than happy to take that away because I cannot, off the top of my head, remember it.

Andrew Boff AM: What I mean is will such campaign include the free flu voucher scheme for frontline staff that was provided by your predecessor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not have sight of that, Chair. I am happy to go away and look into it.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you.

Exercise Cygnus 2020/1573

21 May 2020

Andrew Dismore AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank the Assembly Member for this important question? The GLA family played a full part in the London element of Exercise Cygnus, which was comprised of two table-top scenario exercises in 2016. Officers from the MPS, London Fire Brigade (LFB), TfL and the London Resilience Group participated. Over two days, 24 actions for London's pan-flu preparedness were identified and subsequently incorporated into London's Pandemic Influenza and Excess Deaths Frameworks. The London Resilience Forum fed its findings back into Government. In 2017 the Exercise Cygnus statistics report was published, which identified 22 lessons in total aimed at resilience forums, NHS England, PHE, the Department for Health and other Government departments. I agree the national lessons should be made public and I am happy for the lessons from the London exercise to be shared and for one of my officers to brief you on the implementation.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2020/2542

19 March 2020

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Finally, Mr Mayor, I know that you will have the ears of the Secretary of State for Health. This is the busiest month of the year in the calendar of GPs. They have to do contractual arrangements for what are called Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) payments. They have to bring people who are diabetics and who are asthmatics into the surgery to do certain tests. These are very vulnerable people. We do not want them coming to the surgery. At the same time we do not want practices destabilised because of loss of income.

GPs have been asking for a direction on this matter and there has not been a direction coming directly from London, but other parts of the country have said to their GPs that they do not need to do QOF work anymore. Can we please get some clear guidance so that practices do not get destabilised at the end of the year?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. [Dr] Fiona [Twycross AM] will chase that up.

Dr Fiona Twycross AM (Deputy Chair, GLA Strategic Co-ordination Group - COVID-19): Yes. I will follow that up today.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Great. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

London's crumbling hospitals

2019/20973

19 December 2019

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Yes. Of course I know that money has been given for the Epsom and St Helier Hospital development but of course residents are concerned whether this will lead to a net loss of beds and a net loss of services. Will you be applying your six tests to this scheme? When you have applied them, will you let me know what your findings are, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. Chair, why do I not agree to ensure that my health advisor speaks to Dr Sahota? It is really important that the six tests that I set out as a result of the independent report are used when it comes to these sorts of decisions. Let us work together to make sure the right decision is made, using objective criteria based on expert advice.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Agreed. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Support for Night-Time Health Workers

Question Number: 2019/14577

18 July 2019

Onkar Sahota AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: What can you do to make the environment around hospitals more pleasant and safe so that night-time workers can get some recreation, some fun?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You raise a really important point. There are two things people associate with the night-time economy. One is antisocial behaviour, two is leisure. There is a third, it is work, people work in the night-time economy, and it is really important. The draft London Plan has a number of policies to support the quality of life you talked about around the public realm, around safety, security and resilience to the emergencies, around supporting the night-time economy, and that includes the workers you are referring to, so there are various policies. I can send you a letter setting them out, that is HC6D7D10, which specifically addresses the new draft London Plan, the fact that we are a global 24-hour city and we have got to make sure we address issues like rest and recreation that you referred to for those that work in the night-time economy.

Junk food ban cost

Question Number: 2019/12291

20 June 2019

Andrew Boff AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): TfL uses the nutrient profile model devised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), supported by Public Health England, and used by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and also the Office of Communications (Ofcom). If there are criticisms of things that are being advertised that you would deem not to be HFSS, that is one of the reasons why we will have the review after a year. We are also looking to revise our guidance because one of the things the nutrient profile model does not do is it does not talk about portion size. The formula is nutrients per 100 grams. That is one of the reasons why things that to laypeople may seem to be HFSS are still being advertised. We will make representations to them in relation to reviewing their policies.

Children's Future Food Inquiry

Question Number: 2019/9321

16 May 2019

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Would you please back that call for a Food Charter? Would you write to the Government asking them to implement the independent food watchdog so that we can take a lead on this one and make sure the Government is keeping an eye on what is happened with children's food poverty?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. The Assembly Member will be pleased to know that my London Food Board consists of members who directly contributed to the Children's Future Food Inquiry report. I will continue to work with board members to ensure we act upon the relevant recommendations in London.

Children's Future Food Inquiry

Question Number: 2019/9321

16 May 2019

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: The other thing, Mr Mayor, of course, is that the Inquiry has found 15 young food ambassadors. These are young people who voice the concerns of children right across London and the UK. They have inspiring stories to share and inspiring experiences to share. Would you please be prepared to meet them as Mayor of London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, my team are more than happy to and I have already at the launch of the report and I listened to the testimony of some of these young food ambassadors. I will make sure that my team continues to work not just with the young food ambassadors but the other partners doing really important work in this area.

Children's Future Food Inquiry

Question Number: 2019/9321

16 May 2019

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Also, you know that school meals are very important for the education of children. There are children's hub children who do not have access to Government public funds but they are exempted from free school meals. There is a very strong argument for universal free school meals. Would you please advocate this to the Government that they should make these available right across London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely.

Children's Future Food Inquiry

Question Number: 2019/9321

16 May 2019

Florence Eshalomi AM

Florence Eshalomi AM: Mr Mayor, just following on from that, you may be aware of the Pecan food bank in Peckham. On 1 May [2019] the Bishop of Southwark opened the first of its kind, Peckham Pantry, in London. This is based on a membership scheme where local residents and families can pay £15 and can come to that pantry and buy a lot more than £15 worth of food shopping, going a long way to help address the issues around food poverty and the number of families relying on the food banks.

I very much appreciate that your diary is busy, but can I ask that you look at maybe trying to visit that pantry sometime in the future?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. I am one of the Bishop of Southwark's biggest fans. I am more than happy to go and visit the pantry. That is another example, by the way, of the massive contribution made to our city by faith communities, including the churches. I am more than happy to.

Childhood Mental Health

Question Number: 2019/0425

17 Jan 2019

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: Can you give a commitment that in a similar vein your team will work with London Mind with its current project working with schools?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I would be happy to give that commitment. What Mind is doing in this area is fantastic. As in other areas of course we will work with them.

Navin Shah AM: I will get them to write to you to promote the project and whatever support

that your team can give.

Childhood Mental Health

Question Number: 2019/0425

17 Jan 2019

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: When you work with providers like Mind can you ensure that work is done with a view to improve the picture and the bad statistics that we have when it comes to children and adolescent mental health care?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can do that and can I just say this, just to reassure you, Assembly Member Shah? When I first took charge of the London Health Board I asked to make sure that the Chairman of the Cavendish Square Group - this is the group of London's 10 NHS trusts responsible for mental health services - also come to the London Health Board as well and they have been really useful in the role that they have played as members of the London Health Board. Of course I will make sure I take on board what you have said.

Healthy Workplace Charter

Question Number: 2018/1669

21 Jun 2018

Onkar Sahota AM

Onkar Sahota AM: Absolutely, and I am grateful. I know that a refresh will take place in July or August. We need to make it more accessible to Small and Medium Enterprises. I am grateful for the clarification that it sits with the Deputy Mayor for Business. Also, is there any budget given to promotion of this charter?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is. I do not have that with me but I can forward you that.

Onkar Sahota AM: If you write to me with the processes for pushing this forward, because I really want to make sure this does get pushed. Also, I want to acknowledge we have had a lot of interest from employers who are keen to take this on board. This sits comfortably with your prior initiative and also with putting mental health as important as physical health. If you write to me about this it would be helpful. Thank you.

Cancer Care

Question Number: 2017/5217

14 Dec 2017

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I appreciate that you have constraints in terms of the responsibility you have in this area but like you said, the survey findings are extremely worrying. The question is, is there any way you can have any figures or data available borough wide across London to measure the scale of the problem? If there are any such figures available, perhaps within your Health Inequalities Strategy you can put in some measures to see how those problems can be addressed through agencies, joined up working and so on, and the outcome based on those measures as well.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): When I received your question I asked for the London-wide data and you are right, we do not hold it. It is not held in City Hall, it is held by NHS England. As a consequence of the concerns you have raised, I will ask NHS England for the data they have for London. This information is crucial for us to look at where the patterns are, in the communities that all of us know. This is not a party-political point. What this survey uncovers is areas of deprivation and areas where there are high BAME populations are receiving a less good service than they should, though you can see the innovations in science and how brilliantly the NHS doctors, clinicians and nurses work. That is not acceptable. As soon as I receive that data, I will pass that on to all Assembly Members.

Accident and Emergency Departments in London

Question Number: 2016/4274

16 Nov 2016

Shaun Bailey AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I thank Assembly Member Bailey for his question? I have a copy of the report and I have read it, last night. A&Es are the front line of the NHS and where many patients default to. I want to pay tribute to those doctors and nurses working in our hospitals for the tremendous contribution they make to London. Their work is especially important as winter sets in.

The recommendations you have made for me are sensible. I am not an expert in this area but the advice I have received from the NHS is that they have already started to do these things. For example, the two campaign-related recommendations are originally part of the annual NHS winter campaigning messaging, including responsible use of A&Es, something that I supported last week when I and many City Hall employees had flu jabs and also in my subsequent public-facing statements reported in the press.

With regard to your report's other recommendation about best-practice A&E models such as the model of emergency care at Queen Hospital in Romford, I am advised that these have already been shared with A&Es across London. Finally, I should add that I am meeting Anne Rainsberry, London's Regional Director for the NHS, later this week and we plan to discuss a range of health and care issues including NHS improvement schemes.

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you for your response, Mayor. Can I just encourage you in that meeting to give an extra push? A message from you, from me and from you, could make a real difference in this area.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure.

Shaun Bailey AM: I just wanted to go on to something pressing coming up for London. The wintertime is always of real pressure to A&E and I wonder if we should be using some of the resource that TfL has to promote people in poorer communities signing up with a general practitioner (GP). That would make a significant difference and it is something that you have direct control over. I wonder if that is possible.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thanks for your question. I looked into this because I was interested by your report and, again, the expert advice I have received is that the NHS uses a range of communication channels to promote its campaigns that does include advertising within the public transport network where appropriate, but if there is more we can be doing that is effective I am happy to look into it. My understanding is that already a lot happens and they have worked out what is effective but if there are more effective things we can be doing, I am happy to do that.

Shaun Bailey AM: There is more we can do. I wonder how effective it is, seeing how bad the problem is. You can make a special message from the Mayor rather than just the NHS and push. You make big play of being a Mayor for all, which is fair enough, and you constantly tell

us how popular you are, so maybe a message from you would have an extra effect because in poor communities in particular - and your remit is health inequality - this is a big thing.

Cardiac Arrests in London

Question Number: 2016/3229

14 Sep 2016

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you. I am glad to know that you found my report riveting reading; I am sure you read it before you jumped into bed. Obviously, this is a good thing; it is one of London's weak points in addressing its health issues.

I have two very short questions. Will you help lobby the Government to have "defibs" put in all of our public buildings in accessible places? Here we have a "defib" but it is in the toilet and it being locked in that toilet might be the difference between you dying and living. I wonder if you could (a) commit to having that "defib" moved somewhere where it can be accessed quickly - I would suggest the security desk - and (b) help us lobby the Government to have public buildings that have defibrillators as well?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The Assembly Member makes a really important point. Can I do a bit better than that? Of course I should lobby the Government and I will do so, but also the private sector can help as well. If you are near a "defib", your chances of surviving are far greater.

Shaun Bailey AM: Yes, they are.

Oral Update on the Mayor's Report

Question Number: 2016/2409

20 July 2016

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. I am pleased that you are going to raise the issue of the North Middlesex Hospital with the NHS shortly and I know my constituents will be, too. If I may, I will write to you and let you know of those concerns so that you know the local context that that fits into.

With the TfL policy, you have mentioned that there is increasing concern with regard to body image issues and you are exactly right. Parents, young people themselves and the health sector now realise that this is an increasing public health concern because constant exposure to such images is likely to result in body confidence issues and low self-esteem, which can lead to other problems such as mental health issues, eating disorders and so forth.

Will your steering group perhaps have that public health input as well?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for that question. I can certainly suggest that to TfL.

Housing

Supporting leaseholders left 'mortgage prisoners' by EWS1 forms

Question Number: 2020/3525

15 October 2020

Murad Qureshi AM

Murad Qureshi AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your response. When I became the Chair of the Housing Committee, I have had the most correspondence on this issue, the cladding scandal. It has stopped people moving, re-mortgaging and also added to their annual insurance bills, so thank you. Not just thousands, but tens of thousands of Londoners are affected.

On that basis, both Andrew Dismore [AM] and I did write to you about a few London-specific proposals, if I can focus on that. For example, we suggested that the London Housing Taskforce be set up because there are some specific things you can do as Mayor. The first of those is to look at housing association involvement. It strikes me that there is a high incidence of housing associations involved in many of these very difficult situations that leaseholders find themselves in. There are examples where shareholders who only have 25% of the home as ownership are being asked to pay 100% of the remediation costs. Those kinds of things are something you can look into and I hope you are keen to do that - undoubtedly the involvement of housing associations who are acting as freeholders here.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, to be fair, I saw the letter last week and will respond in due course. The Assembly Member has articulated some of the practical problems people are facing because of the complex nature of this. I will see if there are any London bespoke solutions to try to ameliorate the quality of life for Londoners in the absence of any national response.

Murad Qureshi AM: Thank you for that. There is another ask in a London context. There is great difficulty getting data on buildings that are under 18 metres that may have dangerous cladding. Is it possible for the LFB to collate data from their fire safety inspections to be made publicly available?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will have to look into that. I am not aware of what information the LFB have or who owns it. Each have their own data protection. I am more than happy to look into what the Assembly Member raises for the obvious reassurance reasons it serves. I am happy to write to him in relation to that.

Budget challenges to the implementation of recommendations from Grenfell Fire Inquiry phase 1 (Supplementary) [1]

Question Number: 2020/3432

15 October 2020

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Boff AM: Last Thursday, the Tower Hamlets Development Committee considered an infill development at Brunton Wharf, which would prevent direct access by fire tenders to a block on the estate. Despite the safety concerns of the residents, some of whom live in a 16-storey block, the Committee were unwilling to wait for a report by the LFB and decided to give those plans permission anyway.

Will you write to the Mayor of Tower Hamlets expressing your concerns and asking whether Tower Hamlets residents can feel safe with the decisions made by their Council?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am more than happy for the Assembly Member to write to me with the details. I am more than happy to follow that up.

Andrew Dismore AM: A point of order, if I may Chair. I am sure that the Assembly Member does not wish to mislead the Mayor or the Assembly, but after what happened at the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREP) [Committee meeting] on Tuesday, we looked into the details of the planning decision made by Tower Hamlets. The Chair of the Committee has confirmed that permission was given for the planning but with the condition attached that construction will not be allowed to proceed unless it has the LFB's support and officers will work with the LFB and the applicants to achieve that. It is not quite as Assembly Member Boff indicated.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you for that helpful intervention, Assembly Member Dismore. Is it good practice to always grant planning permissions and then wait afterwards for the comments of the LFB? I would suggest not, but I would welcome the Mayor's intervention on this, merely because Londoners need to feel safe in the properties that are being built.

Andrew Dismore AM: The condition was attached and that is quite frequently what happens in planning, as you well know.

Navin Shah AM (Chair): Assembly Member Boff, if you can write in with clear details to the Mayor as he has indicated, he will respond to you.

Covid-19 Review of Mayoral Policies

Question no: 2020/2661

17 September 2020

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: When will you publish your review of housing policies?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There will be no formal publication of a review unless one takes place. At the moment, the good news is that there is sufficient flexibility in the London Plan to not need a formal review. It has not been approved yet by the Secretary of State so you could not have a review anyway. As and when the Recovery Board and the Transition Board publish work, I am more than happy to share that with the Assembly, which may not get it otherwise.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): What we are doing is we are working closely with the Transition Board in relation to a variety of issues that are coming to light as lockdown is restricted. There is a separate piece of work in relation to the recovery, coming out of the pandemic. That looks at a whole host of issues in our city. One of them is reducing inequalities, which is linked with housing. The issues around COVID-19 and the exacerbation caused by it, particularly to BAME communities and other deprived communities, is not just

around one area, it is across a number of policies. Therefore, what I would say to the Assembly Member is as soon as the Transition Board finishes its work and as soon as the Recovery Board finishes its work, I am happy to share that with him. If there is a need to formally change any policies in City Hall, of course we will look into that.

High rise firefighting after Grenfell

Question no: 2020/3050

17 September 2020

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Thank you for that full answer, Mr Mayor. Sending firefighters above the bridgehead into potentially toxic smoke and fume-filled environments before starting up their breathing apparatus (BA) departs from years of safe practice guidance. As PN633 states, "This is an extremely high risk activity." The FBU have suggested alternatives like altering the flow rate BA sets, making greater use of extended duration BA, and testing pure oxygen sets. Can you reassure us that all possible options are being considered in the development of new high rise firefighting procedures, and what do you say to firefighters who will have to carry out the new policy?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, can I, through you, thank our firefighters for the amazing work they do day in, day out? Also, I share with you concerns about not simply the safety of the public but, as you infer, the safety of our firefighters. We owe duty of care to our firefighters, not just to make sure we provide them with the right kit and the right training, but to make sure they are safe.

Can I just reassure you that the Fire Commissioner, who is in charge of operational matters, is taking on board all of these issues that you raise? He is working really closely with firefighters, including with the FBU, who do a brilliant job doing advocacy on behalf of their firefighters, and will address the concerns you have alluded to in relation to firefighters carrying out the policy, those above the bridgehead and the concerns around the extended duration, the way to use breathing apparatus and testing, pure oxygen tests. I can reassure you Andy Roe is fully aware of this.

What I can do, Chair, is ask the Commissioner to liaise directly with the Assembly Member, who I know is in touch with firefighters on a daily basis, to try and address any issues he has, so he has the confidence that the Fire Brigade takes its responsibility to our firefighters really seriously.

Londoners at risk of eviction during coronavirus

Question Number: 2020/2606

17 September 2020

Siân Berry AM

Siân Berry AM: Thank you for laying all that out, Mr Mayor, and the way you have responded to this question coming up today and the campaigners with your statements yesterday. It is all sorely needed. Looking back, it is notable to see that you have come on such a journey on renting rights since we first started pushing you.

The last time we spoke about this, in May [2020], I was really focused on the arrears that were building up and getting these forgiven. It was unclear then whether you had proposals for that. In your statements yesterday and just now, you have mentioned that you want to see grants to allow renters to stay in their homes and clear arrears.

This is good, but can I just ask: this is the rent forgiveness we are talking about? You would not be expecting those renters to pay this back if it was a grant?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): What I am hoping is that the Government looks at the suggestions I have made, one of which is grants, which do help not just with future rent but the arrears that have built up because the accrued rent arrears could lead to grounds for a section 8 eviction. You will have seen a package of measures - I am happy to share the letter with you - that I have asked the Government to include in a package of support. As you are aware, Siân, we are talking about potentially 500,000 Londoners at the moment at risk of potential eviction from 22 September [2020] onwards.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report (Supplementary) [4]

Question Number: 2020/2542

19 March 2020

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Chair. Mr Mayor, I would like to say a few words around rough sleepers. I know it is an area that you are very interested in. I work with probably the country's largest rough-sleeper group plus also some small ones locally. They have a lot of concerns. I know some of the questions have been answered and I will ask a few specific questions.

More importantly, Mr Mayor, do you think that you or your team could provide some kind of single point of contact (SPOC)? Even though I know that a lot of the responsibility lies with either the Government and/or the local authorities, they could come to you centrally for advice to be directed into the right direction.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for your question. They already are. There is a SPOC in City Hall and various charities and experts know how to reach us. Just to reassure you, I raised this issue particularly at COBRA with the Secretary of State and through the Prime Minister. You will have heard the announcement made this week to give additional help around rough sleeping and homelessness.

Just to remind colleagues, if we are saying that you should socially distance yourself, one of the concerns outreach workers have is that if they find a vulnerable person or a rough sleeper and they bring them back to a refuge, a hostel or a dormitory, they could inadvertently be making it worse for them. When you bear in mind that many rough sleepers have underlying health conditions that I referred to in answer to the question from Assembly Member Whittle, it is a real concern that they have.

One of the things I am calling upon is for the Government to look into using the hotels that are empty, the motels are empty and the empty spaces. Maybe we could use them to provide temporary shelter for those who are sleeping rough. You are right. This is a vulnerable group that needs additional help. When I see the Prime Minister today, I will be following this up. It has been raised at COBRA and [The Rt Hon] Robert Jenrick [MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government] is looking into what more assistance can be given.

Keith Prince AM: You say there is a single point of contact, but I know for certain that one of my smaller charities does not have that detail. They do not know. Would you publish that, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure.

Keith Prince AM: Perhaps you or one of your staff could email me the contact so that they can make contact? They have some real worries about how they are going to get through this because they are not funded privately. Something like 30% of their funding comes from fundraising and they raise about £20,000 from fundraising. Of course they cannot do that at the moment.

Homelessness in London

2019/20850

19 December 2019

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Thank you for that answer, Mr Mayor, and for highlighting the work that City Hall is doing to tackle the tragic rise in rough sleeping and homelessness.

I want to make another suggestion for something that City Hall and TfL could do to help homeless people. I am sure you are aware of Proxy Address, a new service which it is hoped will link people who are homeless to a permanent address, which will help them to sign up for bank accounts and access services that require you to have a fixed address. I am very proud and pleased that Lewisham Council is partnering with Proxy Address to launch a pilot before it, hopefully, rolls out across London.

As well as lacking an address, one of the biggest challenges facing those at risk of homelessness is travelling to the myriad appointments and interviews required to access vital services and bring more stability to their lives. Would you consider working with Proxy Address, Lewisham and TfL to give free travel to those using Proxy Address to make this aspect of their life that bit easier?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for your question and thank you for raising this. I know the work you do in this area.

I would be more than happy to look into this. TfL already does, at its discretion, give bespoke arrangements to people who need help. I suggest, Chair, through you, that Assembly Member Copley meets with Heidi Alexander [Deputy Mayor for Transport] and the right person in TfL to make sure we can get the help directly to the people who need it.

Renters' rights and ending no fault evictions

2019/20727

19 December 2019

Caroline Russell AM

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Obviously we agree that renters need much more protection and that section 21 should be abolished. In fact, the Assembly agreed Siân's [Berry AM] motion on it in July 2018. I am concerned that the most recent Queen's Speech did not mention the Housing Bill despite the Government having run a consultation on abolishing section 21 and it being in the Conservative manifesto. We are obviously due another Queen's Speech today but we are worried that the Government may not make it a priority again. Will you meet with the new Ministers to raise abolishing section 21 as a matter of urgency?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for the question. This is a good example – the Chair alluded to this – of us working closely together on an issue that affects all Londoners. It is a good example of cross-party work. Yes, of course I will do that. I have already, in my letter to the Minister, mentioned the issue of the private rental market and it is really important we address this as soon as possible.

Housing

2019/17453

12 September 2019

Gareth Bacon AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The New Economics Foundation spoke to numbers around the world. They did desktop research as well. Deputy Mayor [for Housing and Residential Development] James Murray spoke to a number of experts, both in this country and in others around the world as well. I am happy to send you the New Economics Foundation research they did.

Permitted Development

Question Number: 2019/14461

18 July 2019

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Can I urge you to impress upon the new Prime Minister and the new Government that we do not want these in London, and at the very least, even if they do not want to get rid of PD rights themselves, at the very least to ensure that they have to comply with affordable housing requirements and they have to comply with minimum space standards?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will do so.

St Ann's Hospital site

Question Number: 2019/14193

18 July 2019

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: They have been involved in the process up to now, but have they signed off going forward to tender?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure about whether they have signed off the tender process, but I can get someone to write to you about that.

Helping Londoners in the private rented sector

Question Number: 2018/3040

22 Nov 2018

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Can I get a list of the Ministers - who have changed quite a lot - you have met, the meetings you have had, on which dates, and whether rent control powers were discussed at each of those meetings so that we can see how you have pressed them on this?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I am happy to provide the Assembly Member with details of the meetings that James Murray, Deputy Mayor for Housing [and Residential Development], City Hall officials and I have had with Government Ministers and officials.

Homelessness

Question Number: 2018/3311

22 Nov 2018

Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: With a new Secretary of State now at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) [The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP], will you again write to her and ask her to reconsider the work that is being done around Universal Credit?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, it is my intention to write, as I normally would to a new member of the Government, to [the Rt Hon] Amber Rudd as the new Secretary of State for the DWP. Of course, I will be making the point when I write to her about the impact in relation to Universal Credit. We have seen with the pilots the link with the increase in food banks and the increase in rent arrears. I will be writing to her and asking her to stop the rollout of Universal Credit bearing in mind our experience in London.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. Shelter is calling for homelessness advice to be available in Jobcentres. Is that something you could perhaps suggest as well?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely.

Brexit and Affordable Housing

Question Number: 2018/2754

19 Oct 2018

Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: Thank you. Will you ask the Deputy Mayor for Housing to provide advice to landlords as well who may actually be unclear about what their responsibilities and duties are?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely happy to look in to that. I think the Government has already, as part of its consultation panel, have got the Landlords Association on there. I will make sure we feed in to that as well to make sure that proper guidance is given. What we do not want to do is have well intentioned landlords, with good intentions, making bad decisions. There is both direct discrimination possible but also indirect discrimination possible as well. I will make sure that is passed on to Deputy Mayor James Murray [Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development].

Fiona Twycross AM: Thank you.

Accountability – Housing Strategy

Question Number: 2018/2631

19 Oct 2018

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Can you own up, Mr Mayor, to the fact that you were mistaken when you, and your Deputy Mayor for Housing, both said that there were no targets under your predecessor's Housing Strategy.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If it will assist the Assembly, Assembly Member Bacon is worried about time, I am very happy to take these away, look at these, write to the Assembly Member, copy in the entire Assembly, so I can clarify any misunderstanding that Assembly Member Boff may be under.

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, I would welcome that and I would welcome that to be spread to the rest of the Assembly and, in addition, whether or not, if you find that your comments were inaccurate, whether or not you would apologise both to the Assembly and to Londoners for misleading them?

Housing and Planning

Question Number: 2018/2341

13 Sep 2018

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: I noted that in your starts for your first year, 2016/17, 1,000 homes have now been retroactively removed from the data. Now, rather than being 8,900, it is now 7,900 starts. Could you explain why that happened?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not aware of that, Chairman, but I am happy to write to the Assembly Member.

Andrew Boff AM: You are not aware that there was a downward revision on the starts in your first year?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No.

Andrew Boff AM: You have made quite a few claims for that first year about how it was wonderful for Londoners.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not aware of the reduction that the Assembly Member refers to, but I am happy to look into that and write to him.

Housing and Planning

Question Number: 2018/2341

13 Sep 2018

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: With respect, Mr Mayor, that is not the question I asked. It was not about the frequency of the statistics. It was about whether or not you are going to publish the list of schemes that those statistics relate to. As far as I am concerned - and I would like to check with the Chairman - we now have an undertaking by the Mayor that when we get that data once every three months, we will also get a list of schemes that that data relates to. Is that correct, Mr Mayor? Is that the undertaking you have given, subject to whatever it could be subject to? I do not know.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): What I have said, Chairman, is that I am happy to speak to the team. Unless there is a good reason not to be specific as to the starts that we have started, we should be letting Assembly Members know which developments we have started.

Andrew Boff AM: Once you have spoken to the team, would you come back to the Assembly and let us know whether or not you will then be able to publish and the reasons if you are not able to publish?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Why do I not write to Assembly Member Boff and copy the Chairman in? Would that be quicker, Chairman, rather than wait for the next MQT?

Andrew Boff AM: Yes, that would be great.

Housing and Planning

Question Number: 2018/2341

13 Sep 2018

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Will you, therefore, publish, Mr Mayor, the schemes that that 1,097 figure relates to?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to publish whatever the normal publishing requirements are and I have no problems at all in us doing more than the Government requires. If you remember, Chairman, the Government requires only twice a year. We have done more than the Government expectation. We do it quarterly. However, I have no problems with full transparency and we will do we can to make sure these details are made available to Members.

Andrew Boff AM: Is that an undertaking to publish a list of those schemes that that figure relates to? You will do that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. I cannot think of a reason why developers or councils would object to us being specific on what they are. Subject to reasons I am not aware of, I do not see a good reason why we would not.

Andrew Boff AM: The last time I quizzed you on this you came up with an awful lot of excuses as to why you were not going to do it and so I am very grateful that the pressure of the Assembly has worked upon you. In the interests of transparency, we want to see that list. Would it be routine in future that that list will be published?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I need to look into the reasons in relation to why we have been more generous than the Government, which is the undertaking I gave, but more particularly what the reason would be for objecting to details being given of those developments that have been started. Subject to no good reason being provided, I have no problems at all with Assembly Members being given as much information as possible.

Housing and Planning

Question Number: 2018/2341

13 Sep 2018

Tony Devenish AM

Tony Devenish AM: Mr Mayor, by May 2020, of the Government's £4.82 billion that you have been given to spend on housing, can you give us an idea of how much you think will be spent and how much will be committed by that date, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. We have already given a figure and I have not got it here, but what we have done is we have given a bandwidth for each year between now and 2021/22 and it comes within the bottom parameter and the top parameter. There is a number for that.

I am less sure if there is a number for money out of the door. You are asking for money out of the door. You would expect it to be a curve going up but what I am told is, if we can get an acceleration of homes, there could be a hockey-stick curve. We do have a number, Chairman, and I am happy to provide you with those numbers that we have. It may just be units of housing starts rather than money out of the door because of the way contracts are signed but we can give you a ballpark figure.

Tony Devenish AM: If you could write to me, that would be fine.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

Social housing green paper

Question Number: 2018/2177

13 Sep 2018

Tom Copley AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There has been a lot of enthusiasm in relation to communities wanting to know a bit more about the fund and wanting to speak to our experts, but what gives them the best confidence is speaking to another community that has done it. That is why we are keen to get some success stories off the ground and that is one of the reasons why we set up the Innovation Fund, to allow communities the confidence to borrow some money. We have to realise that some of these schemes may not lead to community-led housing but the exploration is really important for these communities.

Tom Copley AM: Perhaps not now, but are you able to provide us with a list of projects that are being funded with this loan funding?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, subject to commercial sensitivity I am very happy to do so.

Tom Copley AM: Fantastic. That is great. Thank you very much.

Homelessness

Question Number: 2018/1912

19 Jul 2018

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: You bring me on to the issue of Universal Credit. I visited a drop-in centre recently in a borough that is trialling the roll-out of Universal Credit. They said they had suddenly started getting people who were not actually homeless coming to them for food because they were waiting so long before they got their first payment under Universal Credit. This is a major, major problem, given the Government is continuing to roll this out across London, despite all of the warnings, most recently from the National Audit Office (NAO). Have you made any assessment of the impact of a full roll-out of Universal Credit on homelessness in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We had some numbers from the pilot in London, which caused concern, and I made representations to the Secretary of State suggesting it delay the roll-out until it had ironed out the problems there were in the pilots. The whole idea of pilots is you pilot it, you see the problems and you iron them out before you roll it out. It decided not to do so. Therefore, we are doing some work in relation to two things. One is we welcome the Government's agreement to have a senior civil servant committed to looking at the connection between benefits and homelessness. Secondly, our own officers are doing some work around scoping. I will have them speak with you in relation to how they can do some research about the link between Universal Credit and rough sleeping, the benefit system and rough sleeping.

Affordable Housing

Question Number: 2018/1007

17 May 2018

Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: By 26 units, which looks a bit convenient. Putting aside all of this, you pledged to be the most open and transparent Mayor in London's history. Why have you decided to stop publishing monthly housing statistics and take a step backwards in terms of transparency?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure. I did not realise we had.

Gareth Bacon AM: You have. There is a letter from David Lunts, the [Executive] Director of Housing and Land, addressed to me. In it, he says that it is because of your policy that the statistics will be downgraded. We are going to go for part of the biannual Government official statistics, which are usually published in June/July and November, and that means that there

will be no housing stock statistics published at all until November 2018, and they will not be available on a monthly basis anymore.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If you are criticising me for following Government advice, I take that on board. Let me go away. Can I come back to you on that because I was not aware of that?

Gareth Bacon AM: Certainly. We are going to be asking David Lunts that question at the Budget [and Performance] Committee.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I cannot see a good reason why, if we have the data, not to share that. Can I go away and come back to you and write to you on that?

Gareth Bacon AM: Yes, that will be fine. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

Tenancy deposit loans

Question Number: 2017/4307 16 Nov 2017 Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Are all the other GLA functional bodies such as London Fire Brigade, MPS, TfL are they now all offering tenancy deposit loans to their employees?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think so, yes, and if that is not the case I will write to you, but I think that is the case.

Sian Berry AM: Okay. Do you know how many GLA Group staff members have used the tenancy deposit loans?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am sorry, I cannot actually answer. The GLA, MOPAC, Metropolitan Police Service police, TfL, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), LLDC, Old Park and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) have all signed up to provide the loans. I have not got the figures of how many have taken it up but I can write to you on that.

New housing policies

Question Number: 2017/3938 12 Oct 2017 Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: I am running out of time, I am really sorry. This has actually started to be quite a good discussion. I am waiting for a date for a meeting with you since the June Mayor's Question Time, when we talked about estates. I wonder if I can get that date soon and we can discuss this more?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure, we will sort that. I will chase that up, Chair.

Rough Sleeping

Question Number: 2017/3665 14 Sep 2017 Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Can I ask what progress you have made establishing a new MOU with the Home Office and what measures to define data-sharing analysis will this contain and will it be published by the GLA?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The key issue you are alluding to is the sharing of data that is taking place routinely and my understanding is it is aggregated data shared routinely, and the concern you will have, I suspect, is individual level data. I will make sure that James Murray shares that with you.

Private renters

Question Number: 2016/3630

19 Oct 2016

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Thank you for that answer. That is quite a lot of work that you are doing. I am very concerned about private renting and I asked private renters to tell me their stories and their concerns in my recent survey. Over 90% of those who answered me had experienced not one but four or more serious problems in the past three years. A huge majority of them want better information about their rights and a way of looking up bad landlords and letting agents. I am pleased to see that you still have plans in train - you mentioned them to me briefly at the last Mayor's Question Time - for a "database of rogue landlords", as you called it. Will this include letting agents who break the rules and will you commit to collating the information that is in the borough schemes and from other sources and putting it online in an accessible way as soon as possible?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is what we are working on: a portal to do just that and we are taking advice. There are issues around data protection stuff and there are issues around defamation as well, but we are exploring all of those difficult things. That is the ambition.

Sian Berry AM: Do you have a timetable for when that will be launched?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I asked that very question and I was told the answer, which I will share with you. I will find it shortly, I promise.

Sian Berry AM: The clock is on me.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I can drop you a line if that helps, Sian, but I did ask that question and I do have an answer as to timelines.

Property guardians

Question Number: 2016/3010

14 Sep 2016

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor, for those answers. I am glad to see that you have comments to make about the lack of rights that people who are property guardians suffer from. You mentioned that the GLA group does not use property guardian companies. I also note from a previous answer you have given to me that TfL did use them but has stopped. Can I ask what evidence was used to review and make that decision?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There was an issue about the rights guardians have and how much they are told in advance about the rights that they have. A decision was taken not just with GLA property but all property associated with our functional bodies. I do not have the information the Assembly Member is asking for to hand but I am happy to write to her in relation to some information and experience we have in relation to property guardians.

Property guardians

Question Number: 2016/3010

14 Sep 2016

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: That is excellent. My final question is that some properties looked after by property guardians do not even comply with health and safety standards and councils struggle to enforce this. You answered a question of mine that I put on 20 July 2016 on this. Have you since been able to speak to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to seek clarification of the law relating to buildings occupied by property guardians and their licensing as houses of multiple occupation?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In preparation for this, I chased this up. I have asked my officers to chase up the DCLG about the issue. I understand they are seeking further information from the DCLG. As soon as they write to me, I will write to the Assembly Member.

Housing Zones

Question Number: 2016/2245

22 Jun 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Finally, Mr Mayor, when are we likely to hear of your definition of “affordable housing”?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have already explained what I mean by affordable homes in London.

Andrew Boff AM: You have defined that? Is that something that is accessible on the london.gov.uk website, what your definition of “affordable homes” is?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If it is not, I can write to you again because that is the sort of guy I am.

Andrew Boff AM: You can write to me to say where it is or you can write to me to say when it will be there?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is already publicly available but, if you need help finding it, I can write to you.

Andrew Boff AM: I certainly would like help because at the last meeting we had you seemed not to know what your definition of “affordable homes” actually is.

Private Rented Sector

Question Number: 2016/2010

22 Jun 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: There are some other things as well that could be done, in some cases within your existing powers. For example, there is no reason why councils cannot ask people when they send back their council tax forms for the name and address of their landlord. As far as I am aware, no borough does that, but that will allow councils to start to build up a database of the landlords in their areas. Is that something you will encourage boroughs to do when they are collecting council tax?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a cracking idea. Why do I not take that away and speak to the Deputy Mayor for Housing and London Councils in relation to what we can do to collect data in a sensible way that avoids duplication?

Private Rented Sector

Question Number: 2016/2010

22 Jun 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Sure. That is excellent. Another idea: one issue that landlords have raised is that even when they want to offer longer tenancies, they cannot because of the conditions on their mortgages. In fact, I had this experience recently: when I asked for a two-year tenancy I was told that was fine, but then they came back and said, "Actually, the conditions of the mortgage are that you can have only one year". The Government, I believe, had said that it was going to take banks to task over this but, as far as I am aware, nothing has happened. Could you use your influence as Mayor, both with the Government and potentially directly with lenders themselves, to make sure that landlords can offer tenancies for at least, say, three years, for example?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Again, I will look into that as well.

Defining affordable rents

Question Number: 2016/1585

25 May 2016

Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: However, as a woman, I know that women earn less than men on average. London has the largest gender pay gap of any region. Twice as many women as men in London are paying more than half of their income on rent.

Will the work you do on this calculate separately what the implications of the pay gap are for defining a "living rent" for women in the city?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The work that the officers are doing is in relation to the various living rents around London, working closely with local authorities and others. We have not factored in the point you raise in relation to disaggregating the fact that a woman gets on average 81% of the salary a man gets. Let me look into that because it is a really important point and we need to make sure that we do not inadvertently not give the benefits to Londoners who are women that I intend to give to men.

Sian Berry AM: Thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I come back to you on that? Can we talk about that and maybe what we can do to address that?

Sian Berry AM: I would be happy to.

Housing in London

Question Number: 2016/1410

25 May 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Can I turn to Homes for Londoners, which is one of your main manifesto commitments? Your manifesto refers to Homes for Londoners directly commissioning and constructing new homes. Do you see Homes for Londoners as delivering a new layer of municipal housing?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is no reason why it could not.

Planning

Supporting Businesses 2019/19743

17 October 2019

Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: OK. That is fine. I can send it to you. Where I am really going with this, Mr Mayor, is that of course Cargiant is a wealth creator. It turns over more than £500 million a year and it employs 2,000 people, many of whom are sourced locally. Its business was threatened with extinction because of the development plans of the OPDC. Now, the relationship between the OPDC and Cargiant has broken down completely. We have seen documentation where Cargiant are repeatedly offering visits to the OPDC Board and the OPDC Board are repeatedly refusing. For this entire scheme, which is now in jeopardy, to be resurrected, relationships between Cargiant and OPDC need to be rebuilt. In that light, Mr Mayor, in order to retrieve the situation, will you direct the Interim Chief Executive of the OPDC to instruct the Board to meet Cargiant?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am due to meet, Chair, the Chair of the OPDC shortly, so I will be raising with the Chair the comments made by the Assembly Member and discussing them with her. I am happy to write to the Assembly Member once I have met with the Chair in relation to what steps have been taken.

Extension of permitted development rights

Question Number: 2018/5371

20 Dec 2018

Nicky Gavron AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We have used our planning laws to protect, for example, culture using planning laws and change of use. My worry is that if you are now a landowner and you have somebody who wants to pay X pounds rent for a shop but you have somebody else who wants to pay X times 20 to turn it into a residential home, what are you going to do? We will lose that shop forever. I will take your idea to work with some councils to see if we can do a joint submission or work in partnership with them in relation to the Government's plans.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Question Number: 2018/1993

19 Jul 2018

Shaun Bailey AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The way CIL generally works is for businesses to come forward and contribute, whether it is planning gain or other forms, the infrastructure required to make a site ready for development. A review was undertaken of how we could speed up and accelerate OPDC. We have had conversations with the Department for Transport (DfT) in relation to the Network Rail land, you will be aware, in relation to the development around HS2, and the depot in relation to the Elizabeth line as well. There is work being undertaken here. For the reasons set out in the review, which I can send you a copy of --

Shaun Bailey AM: Please do because none of that explains adequately why the CIL was not pursued and that has just died.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Question Number: 2018/1993

19 Jul 2018

Shaun Bailey AM

Shaun Bailey AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. When was the last time you met with Liz Peace CBE [Chairman, OPDC] or Michael Mulhern [Interim Chief Executive Officer, OPDC]?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think I saw Liz [Peace CBE] a couple of weeks ago. I can send you the exact date but quite recently.

London Plan and Community Involvement

Question Number: 2018/0276

18 Jan 2018

Nicky Gavron AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. It is a draft plan, so we always listen, especially to experienced colleagues. Let me still reassure you in two ways. The draft London Plan sets out an expectation that Opportunity Area Planning Frameworks should be prepared in a collaborative way with local communities and stakeholders, and that boroughs should produce strategies for their town centres that are inclusive and representative of the community.

The final thing I would say is this. I want Londoners to be active citizens. You know as well as I do there are some parts of our city where people are not as articulate and do not get as involved. We are funding five citizen-led engagement programmes that focus on engaging groups that do not usually have a voice in making decisions, and this is a good model I think of engaging communities, particularly in the areas that we are talking about, who up until now have not really got involved in the process of making decisions about their communities. I am always happy to listen to ideas you have, and I will take away what you have said as a genuine consultation.

Nicky Gavron AM: That is good. I am just trying to say that you need to resource and support, and there needs to be a strategic role in these areas which are among the 20 most deprived areas in the country. The most deprived, the most under-resourced. It will need your help in that. Thank you, if you consider that.

Islamic Burial Sites

Question Number: 2017/5023

14 Dec 2017

Keith Prince AM

Keith Prince AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. As you quite rightly said in relation to the Islamic religion, reuse is not an option, but I hope and I can tell you do agree that the lack of burial sites is a major issue across London. Of course, you are absolutely right that ultimately it is the boroughs that have to make those decisions as to where they can be located, but there is a role for you, Mr Mayor, as the Mayor of all London, I believe, in helping and encouraging boroughs to accommodate Muslim burial sites. With that in mind, Mr Mayor, I would really be grateful if you would agree to meet with me, Councillor Chaudhary from Redbridge, some imams and also representatives of the Muslim burial associations in order that we can have a chat and see where you could help and assist.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I cannot think of anything more fun than seeing Assembly Member Prince outside of Mayor's Question Time (MQT) and so I am more than happy to say yes to that meeting, if that helps.

The Mayor's Design Advocates

Question Number: 2017/4072

12 Oct 2017

Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. You have anticipated a couple of supplementary questions. However, on the first one, which you mentioned, which is the early work on the Design Review Charter, can you tell us how far advanced this work is and would you also be able to let us have the terms of reference for the Design Review Charter, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Not just on the housing design guidance, the charter you refer to, but other works, such as the prefabrication that Nicky Gavron [AM] raised at the last MQT, a really important area - but they are looking at a whole host of issues. I am really happy for Jules Pipe and the team to sit down with you to discuss this.

Accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers

Question Number: 2017/3219

10 Aug 2017

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: It will take some leadership because of course the previous Mayor had a fund for pitches which was undersubscribed and we have not seen, in recent years, any new gypsy and traveller pitches being created. We have only seen bids for funding for expansion. Just finally though, can I ask you this? Boroughs have drawn attention to the need for a pan-London approach for things like temporary stopping sites, to try to help combat the problems of costly illegal encampments as well as supporting the gypsy and traveller communities in maintaining their traditional way of life. Would you and your Deputy Mayors for Planning and for Social Inclusion meet with myself, borough representatives and the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit to discuss this further?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am very happy to.

Small businesses threatened by regeneration projects

Question Number: 2017/2175

22 Jun 2017

Caroline Russell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you. I will cut this short for obvious reasons. I am developing a number of policies and strategies to balance the need for new homes to tackle the housing crisis with the need to protect and provide vital employment space. You will be pleased to know I will be setting up policies in the new London Plan which seek to ensure we have a supply of work space that meets the needs of small and medium sized enterprises as well as large employers including the availability of low cost business space. You will be aware of the rapid loss of industrial land in recent years is a particular cause for concern. In response we are looking at how we can strengthen protection for industrial activities throughout London including re-provision of similar spaces when sites are redeveloped.

We are also looking at innovative solutions such as industrial intensification and co-located industrial uses with other uses. I am working with the London boroughs in relation to Article 4 directions to protect these areas and also the new London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) which is looking at a good growth fund to help small businesses in town centres there is much more I will write to you on.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you. I actually want to talk specifically about Earls Court. Last week I met owners of local hotels and restaurants that used to serve visitors to the Exhibition Centre before it closed down. They are really struggling now and it seems that the Earls Court master plan failed to account for that heavily intertwined nature of the local economy with those hotels and restaurants that were completely dependent on trade from visitors to the Exhibition Centre. It used to represent something like 30% of exhibition space available in London. There were a lot of visitors there. Will you propose a new policy in the London Plan that ensures that the needs of existing businesses are accounted for in new developments to stop this happening again?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): In relation to Earls Court you will be aware I have proposed, because it was decided by the previous Mayor, that unless there is an application to change the master plan application I cannot get involved. You are right to remind us of the consequences of that decision made by Boris Johnson [MP, former Mayor of London] and the then Council. I am happy to listen to the representations you have made but what I would suggest is if I get Jules, the Deputy Mayor [Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor, Planning, Regeneration and Skills], to speak to you we will see if we can

Caroline Russell AM: That would be absolutely fantastic. The local businesses and campaigners are launching a report here on Monday evening. If it is possible for your Deputy Mayor to come to that launch that would be absolutely fantastic.

Tower blocks

Question Number: 2017/3183 10 Aug 2017 Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, will you write me or publish the academic evidence and research that supports the view that residential tower blocks are okay from the perspective of educational outcomes, health outcomes and crime outcomes?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. I am happy to discuss with Assembly Member Boff offline exactly what he wants and then write to him once I know exactly what he wants.

Developing the new London Plan

Question Number: 2016/4105 16 Nov 2016 Sian Berry AM

Sian Berry AM: One thing about the workshops is that I am aware that there are lots of groups and individuals who tried to get places and have been put on a waiting list instead.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Because they are so successful, yes.

Sian Berry AM: Because they are very popular and people want to feed in. It would be great - and if you could say yes to this, it would be marvellous - if you could webcast the future ones that are coming up, publish transcripts and get back to those people on the waiting list about how they can meaningfully feed into the process. Just because they have missed out, they should not lose out on doing that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let us look into that.

Sian Berry AM: Great. Will you also publish accessible formats for the consultation materials?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We definitely should look into that.

Sian Berry AM: It is just a big PDF file at the moment and that is not ideal.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Definitely.

Appropriate locations for tall buildings

Question Number: 2016/2547 20 Jul 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Would you consider consultation standards as part of the London Plan?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You raise a really important issue and one of the reasons why I was keen to respond fully to Assembly Member Berry's question about estate regeneration is that some of the complaints made to me are about consultation and the lack thereof, or the quality thereof, when it comes to estate regeneration. Providing guidance is very important, especially if there is best practice that we can share across London.

Andrew Boff AM: Taking that, tell me if I am wrong: yes, you would support consultation standards as part of a revised London Plan?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am all in favour of spreading best practice. It would be wrong for me to do that without consulting on the London Plan when the point you are making is about better consultation post-London Plan to --

Andrew Boff AM: You will consider it, Mr Mayor?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We will consider all things when it comes to the London Plan.

Andrew Boff AM: You will consider having consultation standards as part of the London Plan?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We will consider consulting on how we do consultation better.

Andrew Boff AM: As part of the London Plan?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): As part of the London Plan, yes.

Andrew Boff AM: Very good. I hope that that is recorded in that way. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

Housing Zones

Question Number: 2016/2245

22 Jun 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. Is it fair to say that you will be building on the legacy of Housing Zones that was left to you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): As I said in my answer, which I am happy to repeat, we are going to review Housing Zones. In the meantime, we are going to work with those Housing Zones where the work has already been undertaken to make sure that we can get on and deliver those homes.

Andrew Boff AM: When do you anticipate that review being completed, sir?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is a work in progress and I am hoping to do it sooner rather than later so that we can get on with building the homes we need.

Andrew Boff AM: It is a work in progress that has no end date. Is that correct?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The important thing is to review what has taken place, to build on what has worked well and to change what is not working well. Once the review has been undertaken, I am happy to write to you and give you an update on that.

South Acton Estate

Question Number: 2016/1398

25 May 2016

Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: [--]

The point I wanted to make, Mr Mayor, is whether, having visited those estates, you will have a look at the permissions that went through City Hall to see if any of them can be revisited and if further permissions may be required from City Hall? Perhaps you could ask the Deputy Mayor for Housing to look to see what can be done around those two estates. In particular, perhaps you could also make sure that Barnet actually raises people who have been moved to vote because they failed to do so in the last election. Perhaps I could also ask if you would like to visit Bacton Estate in Camden where regeneration has been done very sympathetically and with the support of residents who are all very happy. That will show, in contrast, how Labour Camden can do it as opposed to Conservative Barnet that has screwed up the residents very badly.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, yes, of course I will come and visit the estate you refer to in Camden.

Regeneration

Croydon Town Centre

Question Number: 2019/6411

21 Mar 2019

Steve O'Connell AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Croydon's town centre is an Opportunity Area in our Draft London Plan and has a key role to play in delivering good growth for Londoners due to its strategic location in the trams/Brighton Main Line corridor with important links to central London, Gatwick and beyond.

A key scheme for Croydon's transformation is of course the Croydon Limited Partnership's mixed-use redevelopment of the Whitgift centre. Good progress has been made since the outline planning consent was achieved in January 2018. In September last year [2018] the compulsory purchase order process commenced, which is crucial for the land acquisition process for construction of the new development. My understanding is that whilst a start onsite date has slipped from autumn 2019 and a new date is yet to be confirmed, the developers have said they remain committed to the scheme and still plan for it to open in late 2023.

Structural changes in retail and the uncertainty related to Brexit will undoubtedly have an effect on this project. I also understand that the developers are currently refining the proposals to ensure that they are best equipped to deal with the challenges facing the retail sector. Despite the setback, I remain optimistic about the regeneration of Croydon town centre.

In April last year [2018] the Croydon Growth Zone was initiated. This will capture growth in local business rates for 16 years and help to fund the £500 million package of critical infrastructure required to deliver the wholesale renewal of the retail court. At least 10,000 new homes of different tenures will be built and there will be 23,500 new long-term jobs with a further 5,000 jobs created during the construction phase. The GLA and TfL will continue to work closely with Croydon Council on the Growth Zone to ensure that the required infrastructure is delivered at the appropriate time --

Steve O'Connell AM: All right. Thank you, Mr Mayor. Sorry, I am running out of time.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I beg your pardon. I am sorry. I will write to you.

Croydon Town Centre

Question Number: 2019/6411

21 Mar 2019

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: Mr Mayor, in the context that there is a delay and a significant slippage, putting this at risk, will you call a meeting in this building and try to put on your mayoral pressure to get this project moving?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, I am always happy to use my convening powers. Can I, with your agreement, Chairman, speak to the Leader of the Council and Assembly Member O'Connell to see if there is a way we can help facilitate progress on this scheme? It is so crucial to Croydon's future. I am more than happy to do that, Chairman.

Steve O'Connell AM: I am pleased to hear that. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

Child Yield estimates and Play space

Question Number: 2019/6324

21 Mar 2019

Nicky Gavron AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chairman, as ever, those are really good points from Assembly Member Gavron. I answer by saying that I am going to ask my Deputy Mayor Joanne McCartney [AM] to go away and look into the idea from Nicky Gavron, speak to not just the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Regeneration but also Deputy Mayor for Social Integration [Social Mobility and Community Engagement] Debbie Weekes-Bernard and see what we can do.

Establishing resident support for estate regeneration options

Question Number: 2016/2410

20 Jul 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, in preparing for your standards for consultation, will you consult with the Estate Regeneration Panel chaired by Lord Heseltine?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We should.

Establishing resident support for estate regeneration options

Question Number: 2016/2410

20 Jul 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: In many regeneration schemes, Mr Mayor, leaseholders who own full equity in their property are offered only part equity in an equivalent property in the new scheme. Is this a fair deal for leaseholders?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You raise a really important point. We need to speak to leaseholders as well because that is a concern they have because they bought it with no intention of part equity. One of the things we want to involve is leaseholders in relation to how they are better remunerated in regeneration. Again, we will be speaking to the representative bodies to get their views as well.

Andrew Boff AM: Could I ask you, therefore, to look at the example of the Colville estate in South Hackney where a gentleman was offered for his four-bedroomed maisonette property - in which he was bringing up his family - the sum under a Compulsory Purchase Order of £200,000. This is in Shoreditch. Is there anywhere in Shoreditch where you can get a four-bedroomed home for £200,000?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I doubt it but, in answer to the first part of the question, we need to make sure those sorts of things are anomalies. What I will do is ensure that the Deputy Mayor of Housing speaks to the Assembly Member to get the details to make sure that those views are taken on board. You are right to raise those concerns.

Andrew Boff AM: When do you feel that you will conclude what the definition of a fair deal for leaseholders will be?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a similar question to that asked by Assembly Member Berry. We are moving as fast as we can because there are in the meantime regenerations taking place. Can I again suggest that Deputy Mayor Murray responds to both Assembly Members Boff and Berry in relation to timelines? I am quite to get on with this because in the meantime, regeneration projects are happening. The sooner we have a best practice, the better.

Andrew Boff AM: That is a helpful response. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Other

MD2441

Question Number: 2019/12299

20 June 2019

Gareth Bacon AM

Gareth Bacon AM: Thank you for that answer, Mr Mayor. The philanthropic donors that you are anticipating: have you any concrete pledges of philanthropic donors that would be attracted by this?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The answer is yes, but I am very happy for the Assembly to receive a briefing. Some of this is commercially sensitive. If I could just explain this way. Some of the help is going to be through gift aid but also travel donations. The idea of the subsidiary company is to enable them to access that. What I am happy to do is for the Conservative speaker - the other hat he wears may be relevant - to get a proper briefing from L&P in relation to the advantages of the subsidiary company.

Oral Update to the Mayor's Report

Question Number: 2019/7894

21 Mar 2019

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Mr Mayor, given your promise to be the most transparent and open Mayor, will you agree to publish the agendas, minutes and papers for the GLA Interest Rate Setting Board, the Land Fund Investment Committee and GLA Land and Property Board?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy to look into that, Chairman.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency Consultation

Question Number: 2019/6426

21 Mar 2019

Tony Arbour AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Why don't I reflect on the points that have been made, craft a letter, add any other points I think are sensible and work with Assembly Member Arbour to make sure we make representations to the Secretary of State on behalf of these companies, who are very often small businesses, family businesses, and providing a great service as well?

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman): I am very grateful to you for that.

Blackhorse Lane Bridge

Question Number: 2018/2673

19 Oct 2018

Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: Mr Mayor, if I can just reconfirm. Assembly Member Duvall's interruption kind of disrupted the rather collegiate way we were approaching this issue so can I confirm that you will work with myself, Croydon Council, MP Sarah Jones to try to bring a fast resolution to this matter [of the Blackhorse Lane Bridge]?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I, Chairman, echo I can do that but also it is important that the Assembly Member is kept updated so he can also cascade the information down to the most important people here, who are the constituents.

Steve O'Connell AM: Thank you.

Garden Bridge

Question Number: 2018/2753

19 Oct 2018

Tom Copley AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think you sent it the advice recently. It is looking at your advice. There is a separate issue about the detailed breakdown which TfL has asked for. By the way, TfL did not need to do that. The Government's £9 million was not on condition of TfL doing the due diligence. It is really important though that it did do the due diligence. I think it is going through the detailed breakdown from the Trust. I am not sure of exact dates, but I am happy to get the Commissioner to write to you about that.

Tom Copley AM: Thank you. Yes, that would be good.

Garden Bridge

Question Number: 2018/2753

19 Oct 2018

Tom Copley AM

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): If you were to write to her and copy me in I am happy to look in to whether me writing as well would add more weight to this. I think, as a London MP, but also other London MPs, will have seen the expenditure on this project. There are concerns about not value for money. Concerns in relation to procurement of the processes that Parliament would think are worthy of looking in to. I support that.

Tom Copley AM: I probably will write to her but it will be good to have your support in this because I think that a Select Committee could add some serious weight to an investigation in to this.

Garden Bridge

Question Number: 2016/3300

14 Sep 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Thank you, Chairman. I wondered if you have had the chance to read or been informed about the assessment of the Garden Bridge Trust's business plan that was drawn up by Dan Anderson of Fourth Street [tourism consultant].

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, I have not.

Tom Copley AM: The report that he has produced, which goes over the business plan with a fine-tooth comb, finds it to be very flimsy and based on quite a lot of optimistic, shall we say, financial projections. That leads me to worry that the commitment that was signed by the previous Mayor to underwrite the running costs of the bridge will come into force.

I wanted to appeal to you to look at this piece of work because you may find - and you seemed quite confident when you were talking to Assembly Member Duvall - that there is actually not a lot underpinning what the Garden Bridge Trust is saying. I hope you will consider that. You say there will be no public money other than what has been committed. Of course, if we do take over the running costs that is more public money.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure what more I can say than what I have already said, but I will add to the homework I have already agreed to and read that as well.

Tom Copley AM: Thank you.

Oral Update on the Report of the Mayor

Question Number: 2016/1848 25 May 2016

Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, your previous exchange with the Labour Group has introduced you to the idea that your predecessor discovered, which is that just because some people are playing for the same team it does not necessarily mean that we will not tackle you occasionally.

Can I just ask, on your audit that you referred to in your report, could you provide me with a list of what data was revealed in your audit of 16 May 2016 that was not in the public domain when you made your election pledges?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Which election pledges?

Andrew Boff AM: Your election pledges. You know your election pledges more than I do, Mr Mayor. What data was revealed that was not available to you when you made your pledges within your manifesto? That is what I would like a summary of. I do not want you to rattle through it now if you could send that to me and the other Members of the Assembly. You are talking about data that was revealed. It is a very important subject, transparency, and we want to know what data was not there that then informed your subsequent decisions on this. --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I will give you one example and there are many. I am sure you heard because all of us were listening assiduously to the fantastic questions from Assembly Member Copley that he, for example, was not aware of some of the data that I have published recently. If he was not aware as an assiduous Member of the Assembly, you will appreciate that neither was I.

There is other information that I have published already. For example, the information - you may have known this; many Londoners did not - on the cost of cancelling is more than the cost of carrying on. There are other examples that I can give and, if you like, I can write to you in relation to specifics. Also, what would help me in my letter to you is if you could be specific about what election pledges you mean in particular.

Andrew Boff AM: You have revealed in your report that you did an audit and certain data was revealed. I just want to know what data that was that was not available to you when you made your election pledges.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure.

Andrew Boff AM: That is simply it. If you can write to me with that, that would be great. Can you do that, sir?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Fine. I will write to you - and I will copy in the Chairman - with all of the information I was not aware of before 5 May 2016 that I am aware of now. Is that what you mean?

Andrew Boff AM: It is what was not in the public domain, ie if you did not look for the data beforehand, you know ...

Oral Update on the Report of the Mayor

Question Number: 2016/1848 25 May 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Are you sure that once the construction of the [Garden] Bridge goes ahead, there is no chance the Trust is going to run out of money and will come to you, cap in hand, for taxpayer funding? Are you sure that once shovels go into the river or whatever - I do not know how it works - it will not be coming to you asking for any more money?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Assembly Member Copley, it is my third Wednesday in the job and so I am still coming to terms with some of the mess left by the previous guy. Let me come back to you in relation to the assurances you seek.

Oral Update on the Report of the Mayor

Question Number: 2016/1848 25 May 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Will you withdraw that commitment that your predecessor made to fund the £3.5 million running cost if the [Garden Bridge] Trust cannot raise the running cost?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): To be fair to the officials, let me wait and see the report that they are doing. I have asked them to undertake a report for me in relation to what has gone on before. I am keen to get on top of all the facts - and I say this to be fair to the previous Mayor - before I make a comment on that.

Oral Update on the Report of the Mayor

Question Number: 2016/1848 25 May 2016

Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Could you say that if any of the companies that have privately and anonymously donated money to the [Garden] Bridge were seeking or have sought contracts with TfL, the names of those companies would be made public?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me see what I published last week and come back to you in relation to whether there is a need for any further transparency on that.