

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Zack Polanski AM
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London E16 1ZE

Department: Communities and Social Policy
Our reference: Rooted Finance

Date: 10 July 2024

Dear Zack,

Thank you for your recent letter and apologies for taking so long to reply to you.

As part of the Advice in Community Settings Programme, the GLA funds Rooted Finance to coordinate a local partnership of organisations providing community-based debt and welfare advice for Londoners in financial hardship – particularly Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Londoners.

We are aware of the dispute between Rooted Finance and former employees who worked as frontline advisors at the charity, and we have monitored the situation since the dispute first came to light. We are satisfied that, to date, the issue has not affected the organisation's ability to meet its requirements, and we are confident in Rooted Finance's continued ability to lead a partnership providing advice to Londoners in financial hardship.

We can confirm that officers at the GLA have been contacted directly by members of the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain who are supporting the advisors the IWGB requesting a meeting. We have declined that request. This is on the basis that: a) we understand that a claim for early conciliation has been lodged by the former employees and it is important that the GLA does not interfere with or unduly influence that process; and b) as a funder of a specific project, rather than Rooted Finance's general operations, it is not for the GLA to intervene in or arbitrate industrial disputes between them and their employees.

It is also important to be clear that the GLA has not been funding the roles occupied by the advisors in question.

Otherwise, we understand that Rooted Finance's management have responded to your letter directly, addressing the allegations made by the IWGB.

Thank you again for raising your concerns, which we take seriously.

Yours sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background, appearing to read 'N Rai'.

Navprit Rai
Assistant Director, Communities and Social Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background, appearing to read 'T. Olayinka'.

Tunde Olayinka
Executive Director, Communities and
Skills