

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Our ref: MGLA280224-7676

Date: 11 November 2024

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 8 February 2024 – Motions

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 8 February 2024. My sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. My replies to motions 3.3 and 3.12 are below.

Motion 3.3 – aerial floor map of London

The map was created in 2010/2011 at the old City Hall building, but it had to be removed as part of the terms of the lease with the landlord before the Greater London Authority vacated the building. Due to the bonding process to make it a secure floor surface, it was not possible to remove it intact and reuse it.

The floor at the current City Hall is not suitable for adhering an additional surface, but consideration could be given to commissioning a map in a different format in the future.

Motion 3.12 – Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and eviction notices

On your first point, my team successfully called for the Home Office to extend arrangements for eviction pauses during SWEP activation periods to April 2024 and will continue to call for these arrangements to be maintained during future SWEP periods.

On your second call, I was vocal in my request to the previous Government to extend the notice to quit period to 56 days in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to minimise destitution and homelessness risks amongst newly-recognised refugees. This policy ask was put forward in a letter addressed to Minister Jenrick on 14 September 2023. With a new Government in place, my team will work with the Home Office to make the case for this change.

My team continues to convene a number of dedicated forums attended by Home Office officials to address issues related to refugee homelessness with experts across the homelessness and migration sectors. Forums include the London Strategic Migration Partnership Board, Life Off the Streets Core Group, Homeless Migrants Advisory Panel and the London Asylum Oversight Group. Rising numbers of rough sleeping amongst newly-recognised refugees is a priority issue for my team, which is working closely with the Home Office and Clearsprings Ready Homes to help resolve concerns raised by local authorities and frontline services to improve communication and implement best practices.

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I stand ready to discuss these fundamental issues with the new Government and work with all relevant partners to minimise the risk of rough sleeping and protect life during severe weather.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London