

MAYOR OF LONDON

Rory McKenna

GLA Monitoring Officer

MonitoringOfficer@london.gov.uk

Date: 4 December 2024

Dear Rory,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2024 regarding a code of conduct complaint from Assembly Member Susan Hall (also noting the update to the wording of the complaint made later that day).

I respond below to each aspect of the complaint in turn – italicised text is taken from the complaint received. In doing so, I must make clear that I had no knowledge of any information relating to LS Events' involvement in previous, current or future procurement processes at the time. My office has subsequently obtained this information from GLA officers in order that I can reply to the questions raised.

Sadiq Khan did not register an initial declaration for the gifted tickets until 22 September 2024, thereby contravening the Gifts and Hospitality Policy and Procedure, 5.1.

- This was an administrative error, which was corrected as soon as my team became aware of it.

In his initial declaration of 22 September 2024, Sadiq Khan did not include the actual value of the gifted tickets or the source of the gifted tickets.

- The initial declaration contained incorrect information. This was an administrative error, which was corrected as soon as my team became aware of it.

The updated declaration of 18 October 2024 states that the reason for acceptance was "Attended as a guest of LS Events". This description does not explain the reasoning for accepting the tickets and raises questions about why the event took place and who was present.

- The explanation that I attended an event as the guest of an organisation is standard wording used in gifts and hospitality declarations, and it is considered that being invited as a guest to a high-profile event is in itself a reason for attending. All declarations are made via the Monitoring Officer – no issues have previously been raised with this formulation, but my team would be happy to discuss appropriate wording for future declarations if the Monitoring Officer now finds this formulation inadequate.

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It is not unreasonable to [...] question i) whether any caution was applied at all and ii) whether it was appropriate to accept the gifted tickets under these circumstances.

- I have no personal involvement with or connection to GLA procurement decisions. I understand that LS Events was not involved in any open tender processes at the time at which the tickets were offered to and accepted by me.
- The relevant aspect of the Gifts and Hospitality policy is in place to avoid conflicts of interest. Because of the multiple protections in place designed to separate the offer and acceptance of tickets by me from any procurement processes, there can be no conflict of interest in this case.

Did Sadiq Khan or his office seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or a relevant Executive Director on the propriety of accepting the tickets?

- This is not standard practice and was not thought to be necessary in this case, as there was no actual or potential conflict of interest.

i) Were LS Events being considered for any future contracts at the time the gifted tickets were accepted?

- I have no personal involvement with or connection to GLA procurement decisions, but I understand that LS Events was not being considered for any future contracts at the time at which the tickets were offered to and accepted by me.

ii) On which dates did the GLA confirm contracts with LS Events for the aforementioned Diwali and St Patrick's Day events (and any other confirmed, upcoming events for the GLA not publicly declared)?

- Diwali – 7 August 2024.
- St Patrick's Day – 18 December 2023.

iii) Were LS Events likely to bid for any future contracts with the GLA at the time the gifted tickets were accepted?

- It is not possible to know what an independent external organisation is likely to do in the future.

iv) Was the GLA considering awarding a contract to LS events at the time the gifted tickets were accepted?

- I have no personal involvement with or connection to GLA procurement decisions, but I understand that LS Events was not involved in any open tender processes at the time at which the tickets were offered to and accepted by me.

v) On what date were the tickets first offered to the Mayor by LS Events, and were there any relevant tender processes for GLA events underway during this period?

- The tickets were offered to me on 14 August 2024. I have no personal involvement with or connection to GLA procurement decisions, but I understand that LS Events was not

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involved in any open tender processes at the time at which the tickets were offered to and accepted by me.

vi) Given the serious nature of potential impropriety involved, who were the other five guests who accepted the gifted tickets and were any representative from LS Events present with the Mayor at the concert

- There was no impropriety in this case, serious or otherwise. Other declarations relating to this event are handled in the usual way and are subject to the GLA publication policy.
- One representative of LS Events attended the concert.

I trust this provides you with the information you need to carry out your initial assessment. Please do get back in touch with me or my team if you require anything further.

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