

**THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY  
ETHICAL STANDARDS REGIME**

**MONITORING OFFICER DECISION NOTICE**

**FINDING OF NO FAILURE**

**GLA Case Reference: 19/2024**

**Complaint**

1. I received a complaint from Assembly Member Hall (“Complainant”) about tickets accepted by the Mayor of London (“the Mayor”) for a Taylor Swift concert at Wembley Stadium on 15 August 2024.
2. After consulting with both the GLA’s Independent Persons, I decided that one of the matters raised in the complaint justified an investigation and that the following allegation should be the focus of an investigation:
  - *it was unclear what level of caution, if any, the Mayor applied when accepting the gifted tickets, given that the company which provided the tickets has live contracts’ with the GLA to organise public events, contrary to paragraph 11.1 of the Gifts and Hospitality Policy (“the GH Policy”).*
3. I also decided that the following matters would not form part of this investigation:
  - *the Mayor failed to register his acceptance of the gifted tickets within 28 days of receiving them, contrary to paragraph 5.1 of the GH Policy*
  - *when the Mayor initially registered the gifted tickets, his entry did not accurately record their value or their source, and did not explain why the tickets were accepted, why the event took place or who was present, contrary to paragraph 5.1 of the GH Policy*
  - *there were a number of “unanswered” questions relating to the company’s commercial relationship with the GLA at the time the Mayor accepted the tickets, raising the possibility of a breach of paragraphs 11.2 and 11.3 of the GH Policy.”*
4. The Complainant alleged that the Mayor had breached 11.1 of the GH Policy rather than the Code of Conduct. It should be noted that paragraph 1.6 of Appendix 5 of the Code of Conduct states:

*“All Members are required to continue to declare the receipt of any gifts and hospitality in accordance with the Authority’s existing procedures and guidance, by registering gifts and hospitality received on the Authority’s on-line database.”*

Therefore, the GH Policy is incorporated by reference into the Code of Conduct and so a failure to comply with it amounts to a breach of the Code.

5. 11.1 of the GH Policy states:

*“Particular caution should be taken where any gift and/or hospitality is offered from any company that holds a contract with the GLA or who is likely to bid for a future contract with the GLA.”*

## **Procedure**

6. The approved procedure under which complaints are to be considered about a GLA Member’s conduct is set out in the GLA Member Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure (“the Complaints Procedure”) which can be found online here<sup>1</sup>.
7. I have considered the Complaint in accordance with the Complaints Procedure.

## **Informal Resolution**

8. I decided that the Complaint was not suitable for informal resolution under stage 2 of the Complaints Procedure having taken into account:
- the Code;
  - the Complaints Procedure; and
  - the letter of response from the Mayor dated 4 December 2024 to my correspondence to him on 24 October 2024.
9. In doing so I carefully took into account all of the circumstances, the need for proportionality when dealing with complaints, the wider public interest and the costs associated with investigations. I considered that one allegation justified carrying out an investigation in accordance with Stage 4 of the Complaints Procedure.

## **Investigation**

10. I appointed Mr Matt Lewin of Cornerstone Barristers (a self-employed barrister with a specialism in local government law and an experienced investigator of complaints against local authority members) to investigate the complaint.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/media/101492/download?attachment>

11. The Investigator's assessment is that the Mayor has not breached the Code and his recommendation is to take no further action on the complaint. I agree with that recommendation for the reasons set out in the Investigator's report.

## **Decision**

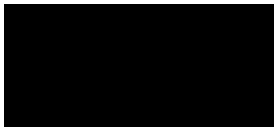
**This is a finding of no failure.**

12. There **not been a breach** by the Mayor of the Code of Conduct.

## **Concluding remarks**

13. In accordance with section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011, I have sought and taken into account the views of both the Independent Persons appointed by the Greater London Authority for the purposes of section 28. Their comments are attached at Appendix A.
14. This Decision Notice and the Investigator's report will be sent to the Complainant and the Mayor and will be available on the GLA's website.
15. There is no right to appeal to the GLA against this decision.

Signed:



Rory McKenna  
GLA Monitoring Officer  
17 June 2025

## **Appendix A: Statement from the Independent Persons**

We are the Independent Persons appointed by the Greater London Authority.

We were instructed by Rory McKenna, the Greater London Authority's Monitoring Officer, on 4 December 2024 in respect of this complaint brought by Assembly Member Hall against the Mayor.

We provided views to the Monitoring Officer on the initial assessment of the complaint (in accordance with stage 3 of the Complaints Procedure) recommending that one matter be investigated in accordance with stage 4 of the Complaints Procedure.

We have received a copy of the complaint, a copy of the Mayor's response and the associated investigation report.

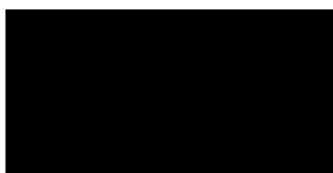
The complaints process describes the role of the Independent Person.

*4.5 The role of the independent person(s), in law, is:*

- To give views, which must be taken into account, by the Monitoring Officer before they make a decision on an allegation that they have decided to investigate;
- To give views, if requested by the Monitoring Officer, on any other allegation that has been received; and
- To give views to any Member, or co-opted Member, of the Authority if that person's behaviour is the subject of an allegation.

This statement provides our views to the Monitoring Officer before he takes his decision on the complaint which has now been investigated as set out above.

Having considered all of the material, we have respectively come to the independent conclusion that we are in agreement with the Investigator report's conclusion that there has not been a breach of the Code of Conduct by the Mayor.



Suzanne McCarthy  
17 June 2025



Farhat Sadik  
17 June 2025