

MAYOR OF LONDON

Zack Polanski AM

C/o Alex.Ingram@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA281124-5742

Date: 10 July 2025

Dear Zack,

Zane's Law

Thank you for your letter relaying the words of Kye Gbangbola on the importance of his proposal for Zane's Law. I apologise for the delay in responding.

First, I would like to thank you and other Assembly members who took the time to meet with Kye after the Plenary session where the motion in favour of Zane's Law was passed unanimously.

The health and environmental concerns caused by land contamination, as well as the potential for contaminants to pollute the air and waterways, pose an unacceptable risk to Londoners. I am taking action where I can, such as through the publication of the [practice note on dealing with contaminated land](#). However, the regulatory arrangements for contaminated land are complex, and legally I have no responsibility for, or enforcement powers over, contaminated land or land remediation.

I share the Assembly's concerns over the impact of contaminated land on Londoners and the lack of adequate resources to properly address the issue. Further, responsibilities for deciding whether land is contaminated and for regulating it sits at two tiers – the local authorities and the Environment Agency – presenting a challenge to exercising robust oversight over contaminated land across the city.

At a time when we need to significantly increase housing delivery for our communities and make the best use of scarce land, it is important that we can have confidence in the regime for dealing with this. For this reason, I support the London Assembly's motion in favour of Zane's Law, which calls for:

- Increased national Government funding and support so that every local authority, including those in London, must keep a full, regularly updated Register of Land that may be contaminated within their boundary.
- The Environment Agency to keep a full, public National Register of Contaminated Land to be regularly updated by information from local authorities.
- Registers of Land to be accessible and available for inspection by the general public.

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- Relevant local authorities must fully inspect any land registered that may be contaminated and must fully remediate or enforce remediation of any land which poses harm to public safety, or which pollutes controlled waters.
- Local authorities and London boroughs to have the funding, resources and support necessary to be responsible for inspecting previously closed landfill sites and fully remediating them, or enforcing their remediation, when they pose a risk of significant harm to people or controlled waters.
- The Government to take full responsibility for providing the necessary funds for local authorities to meet these new requirements, following the 'polluter pays' principle: to recover costs as appropriate where those responsible for the pollution can be identified.

I will write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London