MAYOR OF LONDON

Emma Best AM

Chair of the London Assembly Health Committee C/o diane.richards@london.qov.uk

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Dear Emma,

I would like to thank Assembly Member Krupesh Hirani and members of the London Assembly Health Committee for your letter about the installation of defibrillators across London.

First, I want to say how much I appreciate your efforts to raise awareness of defibrillator use and chest compressions to help someone in cardiac arrest. I was pleased to hear that members of the Assembly had the opportunity to visit Liverpool Street station to see how my partnership with the London Ambulance Service (LAS) and Transport for London (TfL) has made it possible for any member of the public to support someone in a crisis at every Underground and Overground station.

I understand you had the chance to speak with the LAS about the importance of bystander support while ambulance crews arrive and heard first hand the difference that early intervention makes. I have also spoken to survivors of cardiac arrest and their families. Their stories are the reason I am so committed to ensuring Londoners have access to life-saving equipment when they need it.

As you rightly say, increasing the number of defibrillators in public spaces is vital to improving survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest, but it is also important to ensure Londoners have the confidence to step in when someone needs them, so helping increase their knowledge and skills is key. That is why I worked with the LAS to create a short training video demonstrating how to use a defibrillator and perform chest compressions. This can be accessed through QR codes placed on defibrillators and London lifesaver | London City Hall. I also continue to encourage Londoners to consider signing up for the LAS London Lifesaver training course.

In my manifesto, I reaffirmed my commitment to improving and supporting heart health in London. My health team is working with partners to help increase access to life-saving treatment, building on my successful defibrillator roll-out. I will provide updates as this progresses, and I will continue to do what I can to protect the millions of Londoners and those who visit our city every day.

Thank you again for your letter and ongoing partnership in serving Londoners.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Sadiq Khan Mayor of London