

Our reference: MGLA230824-9736

Date: 28 October 2024

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 23 August 2024. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR).

**You requested:**

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to obtain records related to the approval process for the contract that led to the creation of the "The London Climate Resilience Review," completed on July, 2024. This report is compiled by [ ] which was submitted to the Mayor of London in March 2024.

This document is a comprehensive review focused on enhancing London's resilience to climate-related risks, emphasizing the urgency of strategic action in six critical areas. The review calls for coordinated efforts at local, regional, and national levels to address the growing threats posed by climate change, including heat risk, surface water flooding, and the cascading effects of interconnected infrastructure systems. The review provided key areas of urgent action which include:

**Heat Risk Management:** The document identifies a significant gap in the management of heat risk across sectors in London, calling for a strategic, city-wide action plan.

**Surface Water Flooding Preparedness:** The review stresses that lives and livelihoods are at risk and that current coordination efforts are insufficient to meet the pace needed for effective response and prevention.

**Understanding Cascading Risks:** The document highlights the critical need to better understand the interdependencies of London's infrastructure systems and the cascading risks that can arise from climate events.

**Investment in Climate Resilience:** The review urges national, regional, and local governments to prioritize climate resilience in all investment decisions.

**Engaging Londoners:** The document stresses the importance of engaging the public in understanding climate impacts, risks, and adaptation options.

**Strategic Coordination:** The review calls for a shared regional vision and framework for adaptation, emphasizing the need for strategic coordination among various

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stakeholders, including local authorities, the Mayor's office, and national government departments.

Specifically, I am requesting:

All correspondence between city officials, departments, and external vendors related to the approval and award of the contract for this report.

Documentation on which individuals or departments were involved in approving the contract, including any approvals, denials, or modifications.

The budget allocated for this report, including detailed financial records or contracts related to the project.

Records that show the criteria used to evaluate and select the vendor who produced the report.

Documentation that explains why the report was commissioned, including any goals, expected outcomes, and alignment with the city's strategic objectives.

## **Our response:**

I confirm that the GLA holds information within the scope of your request. Please find attached the records the GLA located.

It may be helpful to refer to the *Protocol on Mayoral appointments July 2018* document initially, along with the emails headed *board appointment guidance* which explains the process of appointment.

Please note we have redacted some personal data and some commercially sensitive information.

### GLA staff personal data

In accordance with Regulation 13 (Personal information) of the EIR, the names of some GLA members of staff (those below a certain level) are exempt from disclosure. Information that identifies specific employees constitutes personal data which is defined by Article 4 (1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual.

It is considered that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

### Information related to the Chair

We have withheld some information related to the Chair and the Chair's days and rates under both Regulation 13 (Personal information) and the exception for Commercial or industrial information (Regulation 12(5)(e)). A very small amount of similar information related to others has also been redacted.

Under Regulation 13 (Personal information) of the EIR, information related to a living individual constitutes personal data as defined by Article 4 (1) is exempt from disclosure. It is considered

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that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

Regulation 12(5)(e) states a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

The purpose of this exception is to protect any legitimate economic interests underlying commercial confidentiality. This information is commercial in nature because it is not trivial, nor in the public domain and was provided to the GLA on a confidential basis and therefore protected by the common law of confidence. Disclosure of this information would prejudice the ability of the Chair to achieve competitive rates in future. The confidentiality of this information is therefore required to protect the legitimate economic interests of the Chair because disclosure would affect their bargaining position in a competitive marketplace.

Consideration must be given as to whether the public interest favouring disclosure of the information covered by this exemption outweighs the public interest considerations favouring maintaining the exemption and withholding the information.

It is not in the public interest to release individuals' rates, noting again that a relationship of confidence was implied.

The GLA acknowledges that there is a significant public interest in transparency in relation to discussions surrounding climate change and resilience, and disclosure would enable the local community to understand more fully any decision-making processes.

In this respect, the public interest is served by the release of the remainder of the information requested and that the specific rates are not central to understanding/debate.

On balance we find the public interest favours withholding the rates.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA230824-9736.

Yours sincerely

## **Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>