

MAYOR OF LONDON

Hina Bokhari OBE AM
C/o AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA040725-9345

Date: 22 December 2025

Dear Hina,

Thank you for your email outlining your petition calling for the appointment of a Disability Equality Champion to lead on making London a better place to live for disabled Londoners, and ensure that disability equality and co-production is embedded into all plans and policies. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

I refer you to my previous response to your letter, and our discussion at Mayor's Question Time (MQT) on 11 July.

My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, leads our work to support disabled Londoners on my behalf. Her role includes working closely with Deaf and disabled Londoners, and organisations that represent them, to ensure that their voices are heard, and their experiences and needs are central to shaping the work of the Greater London Authority (GLA).

As part of her work, Debbie convenes the Deaf and disabled People's Organisations' (DDPOs) Forum, which is co-created with Inclusion London and a wide range of DDPOs. That forum meets quarterly, with other ad hoc discussions on specific issues taking place as needed. It shapes the breadth of the GLA's work – including by helping DDPOs to scrutinise our work.

The priorities for the forum and specific topics for discussion are co-developed and agreed with Inclusion London and DDPOs, ensuring that the discussions and actions taken as a result reflect their priorities.

For example, recent discussions with members of the forum have been central to ensuring that my response to the Government's 'Pathways to Work Green Paper' was directly shaped by the experiences of Deaf and disabled Londoners.

My Disability Action Plan is due to be published in Spring 2026. It is being co-produced with Deaf and disabled Londoners and the organisations that support them. The plan will set out actions across a range of different areas of the GLA's work – including employment, housing, access to advice and support organisations, and transport – to tackle the challenges faced by Deaf and disabled Londoners.

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I have also asked Debbie to develop a proposal on how the existing disability forums and advisory groups across the GLA, London Fire Brigade, Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police Service can work together to develop and share best practice, as I committed to in my manifesto.

I continue to believe that the most effective way to ensure the interests of Deaf and disabled people are centred within our decision-making is by having a lead advocate in City Hall with the status of a Deputy Mayor. Debbie's brief deliberately considers the intersectionality of inequality in our city. The GLA Equalities team includes a senior policy and programme delivery officer who leads on disability and engages directly with London's Deaf and disabled communities. The GLA People team has also appointed two disability workforce advisers.

I am incredibly grateful to London's DDPOs for these important discussions and am committed to maintaining this engagement to ensure I am always working with, and for, Deaf and disabled Londoners.

I trust that my response, and our discussion at MQT, have made my position clear.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London