

MAYOR OF LONDON

Lord Duvall of Woolwich OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly
AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA191225-0609

Date: 5 May 2026

Dear Len,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting – 4 December 2025

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 4 December 2025. My reply to Motion 3.1 is set out below, and I am sorry for the delay.

Motion 3.1 – Supporting the ‘Listen for Life’ Campaign for Safer Sound Levels in the Night-Time Economy

London’s night-time economy is one of the city’s great cultural strengths, but the last few years have been exceptionally challenging for the sector and for the people who work within it.

Unsafe exposure to sound is a significant and preventable cause of hearing loss and tinnitus, particularly for those working in music venues, clubs, bars and at festivals. The impacts of hearing loss are well evidenced, affecting communication, mental wellbeing, social connection and long-term health, with growing evidence linking untreated hearing loss to cognitive decline later in life. Hearing health should therefore be understood not simply as a nuisance or enforcement issue but as a public health and workforce issue.

This is reinforced by evidence gathered over the past year by the independent London Nightlife Taskforce, which I brought together to examine and address the opportunities and issues facing the nightlife industry. Its research into the experiences of nightlife workers highlighted the physical and emotional toll of working in the sector. The Taskforce heard clearly that improving working conditions, health and safety, and long-term sustainability for workers is critical to the future of London’s nightlife.

I am also acutely aware of the severe pressures facing night-time businesses, with rising costs continuing to affect the sector. Any new initiatives must therefore be proportionate and promoted alongside efforts to reduce burdens on responsible operators.

In this context, I recognise the value of the ‘Listen for Life’ campaign, backed by the World Hearing Forum and delivered in the UK by the Night Time Industries Association. As previously committed to, the Taskforce’s report has been shared with Assembly Members.

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The Chief Officer has assured me that at all GLA-commissioned events, regular testing and monitoring of sound levels is undertaken alongside the provision of appropriate personal protective equipment. All staff working at the events also receive training on hearing health and safe sound exposure.

City Hall will continue to work with industry, unions, public health partners and local authorities to promote good practice around hearing health, and I am supportive of encouraging uptake of the Listen for Life Charter across London's night-time economy.

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