

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly

AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA190326-6420

Date: 22 July 2026

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 5 March 2026 – Motions

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 5 March 2026. My reply to motions 3.4, 9a and 9c is below. I am sorry for the delay.

Motion 3.4: Funding for ‘by and for’ organisations

I recognise the importance of addressing issues in the provision of support delivered by led ‘by and for’ organisations. Having adequate services designed for victims from marginalised backgrounds is a priority for me. There are existing sustainability pressures facing the sector, which is why I launched the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA)-led ‘by and for’ grants fund as part of the first phase of DASA commissioning. This commits to providing £6m per annum over three years and will provide security and stability to led ‘by and for’ providers across London and recognise that led ‘by and for’ organisations are uniquely well placed to offer this support owing to their specialised knowledge and lived experience around these issues.

This fund builds on the learning and successes from my Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Grassroots Fund, which was established in 2021, with an aim to strengthen the resilience and capacity of grassroots led ‘by and for’ providers who focus on ending VAWG. To date, I have invested a total of £6m across two rounds, which has supported 55 organisations in London, and an additional round of VAWG Grassroots Funding of £6m over three years, which is in the early planning phase.

My officers in City Hall have engaged in meaningful dialogue with the led ‘by and for’ sector. Key principles around co-design and co-production have been an integral feature of the development of the DASA led ‘by and for’ grants fund, which includes working closely with sector colleagues to develop the led ‘by and for’ definition and create the wider specification for the fund. I continue to work closely with the led ‘by and for’ partners in the DASA recommissioning, and my officers have engaged with the sector, including holding sessions specifically for led ‘by and for’ providers, and they will continue to work closely with our trusted partners in this space to successfully execute the next phase of DASA commissioning as well as wider VAWG programmes, including the next phase of the VAWG Grassroots fund.

Motion 9a: Defacing of statue of Sir Winston Churchill

I share the Assembly’s condemnation of the damage done to this statue. Although people clearly have the right to protest, this does not extend to breaking the law.

I recognise the challenges policing and partners have in protecting such iconic symbols across London. Policing cannot be everywhere and must balance the protection of statues with the

MAYOR OF LONDON

protection of people and places. However, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) will consider with partners what other options are available to protect such locations.

The Greater London Authority works closely with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS); they were onsite within minutes, and an arrest was made, sending a clear message that criminal behaviour like this will not be tolerated.

Motion 9c: Terrorism related to the conflict in Iran

I recognise the threat from the Iranian regime and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in this country, where the police and security services have stated they have foiled 20 lethal plots. These plots targeted a range of individuals, including dissidents, journalists, and members of the Jewish community.

I am also cognisant that the police have stated the potential that Iranian state proxies might be responsible for a spate of arson attacks in London targeting the Jewish community is a very serious line of enquiry.

I condemn in the strongest terms the activities of the IRGC and support the police wholeheartedly in bringing offenders to book. Any criminal activity committed by the IRGC or any proxies in London will face the full force of the law.

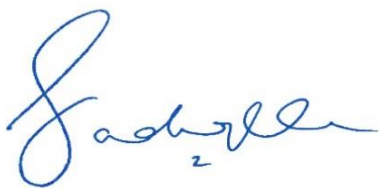
Any proscription decision is for the Home Secretary to undertake based on the evidence they have received, and then for Parliament to vote on this. However, I note that the Government is alive to the use of proxies by hostile state actors and that the previous Prime Minister committed to bringing forward new legislation to better deal with state-sponsored threats.

Regarding the request that a confidential briefing be provided to the London Assembly on the specific measures being taken by the MPS's Counter Terrorism Command to monitor IRGC-linked activities within Greater London, the MPS has responded to say that it would not be able to deliver a briefing of this sensitive nature to the Assembly due to the level of vetting that would be required for individuals in the room.

However, it has offered instead to deliver a wider threat briefing at the Official Sensitive level. If the Assembly would find this helpful, please get in touch with Oliver Levinson (oliver.levinson@mopac.london.gov.uk), MOPAC's Head of Countering Violent Extremism.

I will continue to support the police and security services as they work tirelessly to keep us safe in London and the UK.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London