

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

Our reference: MGLA050826-5321

18 August 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 5 August 2026. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

You requested:

I wanted to ask if it would be possible to access an FOI response published in 2014.

It was a set of emails between Boris Johnson and Simon Thurley. The below is from an article about the request:

"Now [correspondence](#) published by City Hall under the Freedom of Information Act shows that Mayor of London Boris Johnson has lobbied English Heritage chief executive Simon Thurley to reject the listing application on the grounds that it would inhibit the "one in a lifetime opportunity to remove the 1960s eyesore" of the adjacent Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre. "Listing the building would be a significant obstruction to the redevelopment of this key site, and compromise the wider regeneration of Elephant & Castle town centre," wrote the Mayor. "I do not believe the listing of this building merits further consideration."

Our response to your request is as follows:

We no longer hold a copy of this response nor the incoming request. I have been able to retrieve the letter itself. Please find attached.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA050826-5321.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Officer

GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

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>

MAYOR OF LONDON

Simon Thurley

Chief Executive
English Heritage
1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 Holborn
London EC1N 2ST

Date: 09 SEP 2014

Dear Simon

**Application for listing of The Coronet, 28 New Kent Road, London
(English Heritage reference 1421986)**

I have been notified of the request which has been made to add the above building to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is invested in making Elephant & Castle an attractive central London destination. Together with Southwark Council and Transport for London (TfL), my officers continue to work and push for development which will improve the environment for local residents, encourage visitors to the area, as well as taking the opportunity to provide essential new housing.

Elephant & Castle is identified in the London Plan as one of the 33 opportunity areas. The aims for the area and proposed development opportunities are outlined in the Elephant & Castle Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It covers an area of 122 hectares (ha) and aims to simulate 440,000 sq.m of new commercial development and provide 4,000 new homes, 1,400 of these being affordable.

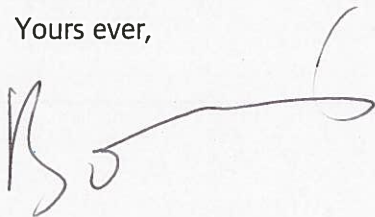
Delancey have recently acquired the shopping centre site which desperately needs to come forward for wholesale redevelopment and restore the heart and vitality of Elephant & Castle as a once in a lifetime opportunity to remove the 1960s eye-sore. The cultural uses of the existing Coronet Theatre can be re-provided within any new scheme (or alternative meanwhile accommodation) which the Council and GLA are working hard with Delancey to secure.

The Coronet sits directly adjacent to the shopping centre. Listing the building would be a significant obstruction to the redevelopment of this key site, and compromise the wider regeneration of Elephant & Castle town centre. I do not believe the listing of this building merits further consideration.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I am keen to remove the threat of any barriers in the negotiation of this scheme. Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact Sir Edward Lister, my Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, by email at [REDACTED]

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Cc: Councillor Peter John, Leader, London Borough of Southwark
Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive, London Borough of Southwark
Nigel Barker, Director, English Heritage London
[REDACTED] Designation Advisor, English Heritage