

Department: International Relations
Our ref: MGLA071217-7038

By email

Date: 15 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email dated 7 December about the Mayor's tour of India and Pakistan, which was received by the Greater London Authority on the same day.

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. How much is the mayor's ego trip costing me as a Londoner?

It is not clear what precise figure you are asking for. If you are requesting the full cost of the Mayor's visit to India and Pakistan, we do not yet have the full cost as it is still being finalised. We are still waiting for some charges and expenses to be submitted to the GLA before we can finalise the total. You may wish to resubmit this part of your request later. Once the GLA has received all outstanding bills and submissions, we will be able to provide the full cost of the trip per person as above. We would also encourage you to refer to the Mayor's expenses (<https://www.london.gov.uk/people/mayoral/sadiq-khan/expenses>) in the coming months for further updates on this specific visit.

2. We have a Minister for Trade, why do we need this expensive tour which Sadiq Khan is relishing?

As laid out in the GLA Act 1999, which created the role of the Mayor and London Assembly, the Mayor has the power to do anything which she or he considers will further any one or more of its principal purposes. The Act stipulates that the principal purposes of the Authority include promoting economic development and wealth creation in Greater London, promoting social development in Greater London, and promoting the improvement of the environment in Greater London. Whilst the Minister has a national responsibility to the whole of the UK, the Mayor focuses specifically on economic development opportunities for the capital city.

The focus of the Mayor's visit was to build new business and trade links in India and Pakistan, and make connections across their cultural and creative industries. Companies

from India and Pakistan are major employers in London and both countries are growing export markets for British firms – with more than 100 UK companies based in Pakistan. In India and Pakistan, the Mayor was accompanied by London business leaders who were looking for trade deals or investment opportunities that could generate jobs for Londoners.

During the visit, the Mayor was happy to announce that London & Partners, the Mayor's investment and promotional agency, had secured more than 400 new jobs in London's tech sector because of investment from Indian firms. ICT company Wipro – which already employs more than 1800 Londoners – revealed plans to open third office in the City of London. Habib Bank AG Zurich, which already has eight branches in Britain, announced that it is now planning two new branches in London, creating 50 new jobs. Cementing London's position as the world-leading centre for VFX (visual effects) and post-production facilities, the Mayor announced the biggest-ever TV co-production between London and India – a remake of The Far Pavilions, worth £113m. The unique collaboration will be produced by both Indian and British technicians, and the post-production for the high-end drama will be based in London.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, ensuring that you quote the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Dharmina Shah

International Relations

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