

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA060718-6918

16 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 July to the Mayor of London about the forthcoming protest against President Trump's visit to the UK on 13 July. Your comments are noted. Your question about the cost of the balloon has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*I want the Mayor of London to explain how much Council Tax was used to fund this childish agenda*

Our response to your request is nil. The Greater London Authority (GLA) has not incurred any expenditure on this.

The Mayor supports the right to peaceful protest and understands that this can take many different forms. His city operations team met with the organisers and gave them permission to use Parliament Square Garden as a grounding point for the blimp. However the organisers also needed to receive the necessary approvals from the Metropolitan Police and National Air Traffic Service in order for it to fly.

Sadiq's main priority is the safety of all Londoners and visitors to our city, and as always we work in very close coordination with the Metropolitan Police and other key agencies to ensure all protests are carried out safely and securely.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA060718-6918.

Yours sincerely

**Ruth Phillips**  
**Information Governance Officer**

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>