

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA280619-6047

16 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 25 June 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

One: How many times has the Mayor met representatives of the Chinese government and what were the subjects discussed?

Two: Has the Mayor made any public statement about human rights in China and Chinese policy towards the Tibetan and the Uighur peoples?

We have also been asked to respond to questions sent via your London Assembly member:

I would therefore be grateful to know whether Sadiq Khan has made any public comment on China's policies, how many times he has met its representatives (including representatives of Chinese government agencies or nationalized businesses) and whether he has encouraged or discouraged commercial, business and investment links between London and China, including participation by London concerns in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request:

The Mayor is committed to promoting London overseas, building relationships with key cities, authorities and the international business community. As one of the world's fastest growing economies, China is one of the leading sources of investment into the capital. The Mayor acknowledges that Chinese businesses and the thriving Chinese community make a huge contribution to London.

The Mayor attended the Chinese New Year celebration in Trafalgar Square in 2017, 2018 and 2019. At this annual key culture and community event, the largest of its kind outside of China, he met with representatives from London's Chinese community and businesses, and conveyed the #LondonIsOpen message to hundreds of thousands of spectators and Londoners from all communities.

The Mayor has held bilateral meetings with the following city/regional leaders from China since taking office in 2016. At these meetings the Mayor promoted London as the pre-eminent business capital of the world, reinforced London's leading role in climate change initiatives, and reassured the guests that London remains open for business and a key destination for investment, tourism and education following the EU referendum.

- Mr XU Qin, Mayor of Shenzhen, September 2016
- Mr HU Chunhua, Party Secretary of Guangdong and Mr WEN Guohui, Mayor of Guangzhou, June 2017
- Mr YING Yong, Mayor of Shanghai, July 2017
- Mr CAI Qin, Party Secretary of Beijing, May 2018
- Mr CHEN Rugui, Mayor of Shenzhen, May 2019

In March 2018, the Mayor spoke at an event attended by Chinese Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Mr Liu Xiaoming, and more than 150 Chinese investors hosted by London & Partners – London's Promotional Agency. The reception was attended by investors from all sectors and explored investment opportunities for Chinese companies looking to expand into London. At the event, London & Partners and the City of London Corporation also launched a digital hub for the Belt and Road initiative.

The Mayor acknowledges the ongoing UK public concern on human rights issues in China. He would encourage concerned individuals and groups to continue working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to seek appropriate opportunities to raise these issues with the Chinese authorities further.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA280619-6047.

Yours sincerely


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>