

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

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Our Ref: MGLA121217-7431

6 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 12 December 2017. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested a list of;

- a) all formal, official meetings the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has held since May 9th 2016 with councillors and council leaders in their official role as a representative of their borough*
- b) any meetings held where councillors were representing London Councils*

In line with our publication scheme, the [Mayor's diary](#) is published on our website twice a year. The GLA has already published the Mayor's diary covering the period May 2016 to October 2017 and includes the meetings the Mayor has held with councillors and borough leaders.

The Mayor's key engagements are also published in more detail in the [Mayor's reports](#) to the London Assembly which forms part the meeting papers at each Mayor's Question Time.

Mayoral meetings that are attended by representatives of London Councils are as follows;

- London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)
- Homes for Londoners
- London Health Board

Also contained within the Mayor's diary is a photo event with the Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board (MCLB), and the Launch of Thrive London (Thrive London Steering Group)

You may be interested to know that London Councils host the Congress of Leaders which is attended by the Mayor and published in his diary. For more information on meetings hosted by London Councils you may wish to contact them for further information;

[FOI@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

In relation to parts of the Mayor's diary which the GLA is yet to publish (November 2017 onwards), section 22 of the FoI Act provides an exemption for information that is intended to be published in the future. Information is exempt if, at the time when the public authority receives a request for it;

- the public authority holds the requested information;
- the public authority intends the information to be published at some future date, whether that date is determined or not; and
- in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information until its planned publication.

Section 22 acknowledges that public authorities must have freedom to be able to determine their own publication timetables. This allows them to deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication. It is however necessary to consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and withholding the information until the publication date), is greater than the public interest in releasing the information before this date.

In this instance, it is felt that there is a greater public interest for the GLA to keep to its original timetable of disclosure. The decision to publish the Mayor's diary on a six month basis was made in order to allow the Mayor's office to effectively manage their workload and the work required to prepare such a large amount of information for publication.

The decision to proactively publish the Mayor's diary demonstrates the GLA's commitment to openness and transparency and we believe a six month publication cycle for this information is appropriate. The public interest in the release of the Mayor's meetings and key engagements is also met by the more regular publication of the Mayor's report.

The public interest – i.e. the best interests of the public – is met by the GLA being open and transparent, but also by managing its resources effectively, and this includes setting reasonable publication schedules to meet this public interest.

While there is an obvious public interest in the release of the Mayor's diary, we believe this is met by our intention to publish this information. We do not believe the public interest favours the disruption that would be caused to GLA staff by expediting this publication when its early publication would not meet any immediate or exceptional public concerns at the present time.

We therefore find the balance of public interest falls in maintaining the exemption and the GLA publishing this information in accordance with our existing publication timetable.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA121217-7431.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Robinson**  
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>