

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA220317-6503

10 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 21 March 2017. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. *Copies of all emails with the keywords "Draft Guide to Estate Regeneration" in the subject line or body of the text, for the period 1/6/16 to present, sent from and received by:*
 - a) *The Mayor*
 - b) *The Deputy Mayor for Housing*
 - c) *Housing and Land, Head of Area, South London (Lucy Owen/Heather Juman)*
 - d) *Assistant Director - Programme Policy and Services (Jamie Ratcliff)*

Please find the relevant information attached. We have redacted a small amount of personal data in accordance with the provision under regulation 13(1) of the EIR. We have also applied regulation 12 (4)(d) to a small amount of information contained within the emails and our rationale is expanded upon under question 4 of your request.

2. *Copies of all emails to/from Lib Peck, leader of Lambeth Council for the period 1/6/16 to present, sent from and received by:*
 - a) *The Mayor*
 - b) *The Deputy Mayor for Housing*
 - c) *Housing and Land, Head of Area, South London (Lucy Owen/Heather Juman)*
 - d) *Assistant Director - Programme Policy and Services (Jamie Ratcliff)*

Please find the relevant information attached. We have redacted a small amount of personal data contained within some of the documents in accordance with the provision under regulation 13(1) of the EIR.

3. *Any attachments to the emails listed in 1 and 2*

There are no attachments held with regards to the emails held in respect of part 1 and 2 of your request.

4. *A copy of every iteration of the Mayor's "Draft Guide to Estate Regeneration" which was produced prior to the draft published for public consultation.*

We have decided to withhold this information under regulation 12(4)(d) of EIR. EIR regulation 12(4)(d) can be engaged when a request relates to material that is either still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data.

Guidance¹ published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) confirms that, because the exception differentiates between the terms 'material in the course of completion' and 'unfinished documents', the provisions of this exception can apply to draft documents that are unfinished even if the final version has been produced.

Under regulation 12(1)(b), the GLA can only withhold the information if, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Furthermore, under regulation 12(2), it must apply a presumption in favour of disclosure.

There is an underlying rationale supporting the disclosure of environmental information that increased public access brings greater awareness, more participation in environmental decisions and a better environment. There is a strong public interest in transparency of information contained within draft documents that would allow the public to understand and contribute to discussions and decisions that affect them.

However, I believe that the balance of the public interest weighs in favour of non-disclosure at this time. It is important that officers are allowed a 'safe space' in which to finish ongoing work without interruption and interference from outside; and provide some protection from having to spend time and resources explaining or justifying ideas that are not or may never be final. The 'right to know' must be balanced against the need to enable effective government, deliver efficient policing and to serve the best interests of the public.

5. *A list of all consultations/meetings held by the Office of the Mayor of London with local groups (e.g. 35percent.org), London Borough councils, developers and residents in relation to the "Draft Guide to Estate Regeneration".*

Please find attached

6. *Briefing notes, minutes or any other record of discussion in relation to the meetings detailed in 5.*

Please find attached. We have redacted a small amount of personal data in accordance with the provision under regulation 13(1) of the EIR.

7. *A register of the information that falls within the scope of this request. I would expect this to be a list of all the emails falling within the scope, regardless of whether the content is to be disclosed.*

Please find attached.

¹ ICO EIR Guidance; regulation 12(4)(d) - https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1637/eir_material_in_the_course_of_completion.pdf

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

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>