

Thank you for your email, please find the answers to your questions in red below.

- **Any references in the density research by LSE which you think demonstrates that the density matrix has been a constraint and whether it recommended abandoning it;**
- **the relevant evidence base which demonstrates that the SRQ density matrix has constrained densities (especially in highly-accessible locations), given that there have been a high proportion of schemes where the densities have exceeded the top of the appropriate density range for the site;**

The LSE research and that of the other evidence base documents on housing density do not suggest that the SRQ density matrix has been a constraint. The matrix does have upper limits to density and thus these imply a density constraint. LSE research recommendations propose a different approach on density for strategic policy to continuing the use of the density matrix. LSE research recommendations are in section 5 of the report titled Defining, Measuring and Implementing Density Standards in London July 2016.

As shown in the Mayor's Annual Monitoring Reports the majority of approved housing developments in London have been delivered at densities beyond those recommended in the SRQ density matrix for every year since the commencement of the London Plan in 2004 apart from 2012/13. The significant degree of noncompliance with the density ranges set out in the SRQ density matrix highlighted the weakness of the policy and necessitated the reappraisal of the approach to housing density in the new London Plan.

- **the report to the Mayor and Deputy Mayors for Planning and Housing, to justify the the removal of the density matrix from the Draft London Plan - if necessary, treat this as an FOI request.**

The process for developing the new London Plan did not involve reporting on the merits of retaining or removing each of the policies in the 2016 London Plan. The evidence base reports were used to develop new policies to address the key issues they identified, and iterations of new policies were discussed with Deputy Mayors. Thus there is no report to the Deputy Mayor which specifically justifies the removal of the density matrix. The attached Mayoral Decision report which the Mayor has signed sets out that the new London Plan will have a design-led approach to optimising density (see paragraph 5.3).

Kind regards