

MAYOR OF LONDON**Dr Onkar Sahota AM**

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Dear Onkar

Thank you for your letter of 10 November about the London Assembly Health Committee report – *Access to Health Services for Deaf People*.

This is an important piece of work on the needs of Deaf Londoners. I hope you were able to disseminate to the NHS and commissioning services the recommendations which pertain to them.

I have sought to mainstream the needs of Deaf and disabled people throughout the main functions of the Greater London Authority. In particular, through planning and transport there are structures in place to ensure Deaf and disabled stakeholders can inform the development of policies and strategies. This is particularly important because disabled people may experience specific barriers to accessing transport, open spaces and the built environment. As a result it can limit their ability to access employment or social activities. This has implications for health and health inequalities.

As you may be aware, the Liberty festival celebrates the achievements of Deaf and disabled artists in London. In addition, we seek to ensure accessible events and engagement activities by having BSL interpreters and palantypists in attendance. I am aware that Deaf and disabled people need to be at the heart of the policies that impact them.

Thank you for sharing the report. I wish you luck in getting agreement from stakeholders to take forward the recommendations.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London