

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: MGLA170418-9668

5 June 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information, which the GLA received on 9 April 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

You asked:

*Please provide a copy of all documentation prepared for Zach Goldsmith by the Greater London Authority to be provided to him in the event of him becoming Mayor of London in the 2016 Mayoral election. This may include policy advice, guidance on Mayoral duties and responsibilities and other material.*

We do not hold a briefing prepared specifically for Zac Goldsmith. We can, however, release the attached briefing pack, which was, for the most part, prepared for the incoming Mayor irrespective of her or his political affiliation. The pack was, however, adapted in a limited way as the election neared and it became apparent Sadiq Khan was likely to win. You will therefore find the pack contains a small number of references to policies and similar specific to Sadiq.

The approach we took was in line with the guidelines we set down in a published document – *Greater London authority Elections: Contingency Planning for Political Transition*<sup>1</sup> (October 2015). Paragraph 23 of the guidance states that the extent and form of any (HOPS/GLA) engagement with Mayoral candidates will take account of ‘.... candidates’ electoral prospects. The latter will be informed by, amongst other factors, reference to published opinion polls ....’

A small amount of information within the briefing falls under the exemption at section 43 (2) (Commercial Interests) of the Act. Section 43(2) provides that information can be withheld from release if its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including those of the GLA.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla\\_transition\\_guide\\_-\\_2016.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_transition_guide_-_2016.pdf)

A commercial interest relates to a person's ability to participate competitively in a commercial activity, i.e. negotiation of terms in relation to financing. The information covered by this exemption is commercial in nature as it sensitive information which relate to the GLA's commercial interests, the disclosure of which could prejudice those interests.

Section 43(2) constitutes a qualified exemption from our duty to disclose information under the Freedom of Information Act and consideration has to be given as to whether the public interest favouring disclosure of the information covered by this exemption outweigh the public interest considerations favouring maintaining the exemption and withholding the information. It would not be in the public interest to release information that would be likely to affect at a later time, the way in which third parties would expect to be able to negotiate similar terms with the GLA.

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

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>