

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA130418-9266

15 May 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 13 April 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for;

...all emails, minutes and documents relating to a decision by the Mayor of London's Office and Greater London Authority preventing media representatives, journalists and members of the public to attend the London Assembly meeting on knife crime in the capital on 11th April 2018, and the banning of journalists from the Mayor's Summit at City Hall 10th April 2018 on the same issue, attended by Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, a number of high-profile politicians and the Met Police commissioner.

Please find attached the information we have identified as being within the scope of your request. Some further correspondence has been withheld from disclosure; We believe that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 42 of the Act. Legal advice remains subject to legal professional privilege and is therefore exempt under section 42.

Legal Professional Privilege (LPP) protects confidential communication between lawyers and clients, and is a fundamental principle of English law. The principle is based upon the need to protect a client's confidence that any communication with their legal adviser will be treated in confidence and not revealed without consent.

We have considered the public interest and strongly believe that the public interest in protecting legal professional privilege outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The Information Commissioner's Office quotes from the Tribunal's case of Bellamy (2005):

"...there is a strong element of public interest inbuilt into the privilege itself. At least equally strong countervailing considerations would need to be adduced to override that inbuilt interest ... it is important that public authorities be allowed to conduct a free exchange of views as to their legal rights and obligations with those advising them without fear of intrusion, save in the most clear case..."

The general public interest inherent in section 42 will always be strong due to the importance of the principle behind LPP: safeguarding openness in communications between client and lawyer to ensure access to full and frank legal advice, which in turn is fundamental to the administration of justice.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA130418-9266.

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>