

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Jennette Arnold OBE**

Chair of the London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

**Our ref:** MGLA240717-1859

**Date:** 24 AUG 2017

*Dear Chair Arnold,*

Thank you for your letter of 20 July about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 6 July. My reply to each motion is set out below:

## **Motion 1 – Children's Oral Health**

Thank you for raising this important issue. As part of my Health Inequalities Strategy, I will be launching a Healthy Early Years London Awards scheme in spring 2018 which will encourage and empower Early Years settings across London to improve children's oral health from birth to 5. Children will learn to brush their teeth and understand the importance of visiting the dentist.

Parents will receive information and advice to support their children's oral health. In order to continue these habits, my Healthy Schools London programme supports and recognises school achievements in pupil health and wellbeing. Many schools that have a Healthy Schools London Award have dramatically increased registrations with dentists and reduced the numbers of children with dental problems.

## **Motion 2 – Al Quds Day Parade**

I understand the very real concerns about the Al Quds demonstration and welcome the Assembly's support in sending a clear message that prejudice and hatred have no place in our city.

As you know, I have written to the Home Secretary to raise the concerns of the Jewish community and others about the support shown for Hezbollah at this annual event in London. I have urged her to consider these concerns carefully and to look at closing the legal loophole which means that currently, whilst displaying the flag of the military wing of Hezbollah is illegal, the flag of its political wing is not.

I will continue to work with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and communities across the capital to do everything in my power to crack down on extremism and ensure London's Jewish communities feel safe and secure in London. Anti-Semitism or hate crime of any kind has no place in our city, where we don't just tolerate diversity, we respect and celebrate it.

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## **Motion 3 – Ubers Operating Licence**

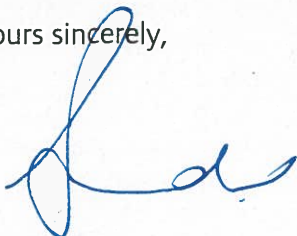
Uber London Limited (ULL) is registered as a private hire operator in London, having met the same pre-licensing requirements in 2012 as any other applicant for an operator's licence and is subject to all legislation which applies to private hire operators in the capital.

In reaching its decision on whether an operator should be granted an operating licence, Transport for London (TfL) must assess if the operator is compliant with current legislation and licensing requirements to ensure the public travel safely throughout London. As the regulatory and licensing authority, TfL keeps all operator licences under review to ensure they continue to meet the requirements for licensing in London. In May 2017, ULL was granted a four-month private hire operator licence to allow TfL to conclude its consideration of a five year licence. I do not intend to pre-empt TfL's decision as the regulator.

While contractual arrangements between drivers and who they choose to work for is not something that is within TfL's control, I am firmly of the belief that workers should receive a fair day's pay within a secure working environment. As a passionate advocate of the London Living Wage, I encourage all companies, including private hire operators in London, to commit to paying their drivers at least £9.75 for every hour they work. I have recently launched a dialogue across London's businesses, including its private hire companies, through the consultation on my Good Work Standard. This includes ensuring that everyone in their workforce has excellent working conditions and is treated fairly, and their terms of employment are not exploitative or unlawful. As I have raised previously in response to the Assembly Motion on 8 March, these problems are symptomatic of the gig economy and extend beyond any one company. I remain firmly of the belief that these challenges can only be met through Government at a national level.

I continue to seek increased powers on Cross Border Hiring and to enable a cap on private hire vehicle numbers. Without urgent regulation to address issues of Cross Border Hiring we will be powerless to enforce any cap on the number of PHV vehicles operating in London. I believe that all taxi and private hire vehicle journeys should either start or end in the area in which the driver, vehicle and operator is licensed. This will put an end to out of town vehicles permanently operating within another licensing area to take advantage of softer licensing and enforcement standards. I welcome the Assembly's support for my call for increased powers for a cap on the number of PHV licences within London and call for your support on helping London to tackle the combined issue of cross border hiring. Both my Deputy Mayor for Transport and I are actively lobbying central Government and the DfT on both matters. I recently met with the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling, and had a positive discussion on our requests. TfL and I are continuing to work with Government to provide TfL with these powers.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London