

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Navin Shah AM**

Chair of the London Assembly  
C/o [mahvesh.ibrar@london.gov.uk](mailto:mahvesh.ibrar@london.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** MGLA250720-9000

**Date:** 19 August 2020

Dear Navin,

**Re: London Assembly (Plenary) – 23 July 2020, Item 4**

Thank you for your letter of 24 July on behalf of the London Assembly about the recent plenary meeting. As I have made clear, economic recovery from COVID-19 is one of my top priorities.

The Government has a historic responsibility to ensure no one is left permanently unemployed, homeless or in poverty as a result of this virus – just as the post-war Governments had a responsibility to build a country fit for the heroes who had sacrificed so much. That is why I have been leading calls for action to protect jobs, such as an extension to the furlough scheme for the most at risk sectors and geographical areas – like central London. And why we have rolled out numerous schemes to support economic recovery including Pay It Forward London, a scheme enabling Londoners to support their favourite businesses, which has so far helped over 170 businesses raise at least £250,000.

I have also allocated £1 million to grow City Hall's business support through the London Growth Hub and £2.3 million for a Culture at Risk fund to help some of London's most imperilled creative and night-time businesses. And I have also allocated £11 million to help the city's skills providers shift to online learning and training, including specific measures designed to reach Londoners who are currently less able to access online courses.

It is far better for the Government to intervene now, in order to prevent a sudden surge in unemployment and the devastating poverty and homelessness this could cause, along with the huge associated costs.

Before being elected I promised to be the most transparent Mayor of London our capital has ever had and am proud to have kept that commitment to Londoners – including by enabling the vital scrutiny work of the London Assembly. I have attended more meetings than any previous Mayor during their first four years in office and answered more questions through the statutory process than any of my predecessors in the comparable timeframe.

My team and I have always endeavoured to ensure that an appropriate Mayoral appointee is present at all meetings and will continue to do so.

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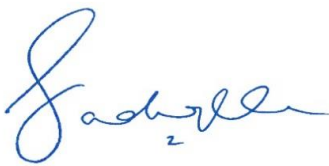
On this occasion, the most appropriate Deputy Mayor was my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, who co-chairs economic recovery work for the London Recovery Board alongside Cllr Georgia Gould. This Board and its Taskforce are doing vital work on behalf of all key London stakeholders, including London Councils and the Government.

Unfortunately, Jules was unable to attend this committee meeting as he was on leave at the time. His co-chair Cllr Georgia Gould did, of course, attend alongside the Greater London Authority's Executive Director for Good Growth, who is the lead officer for my economic recovery work. By the time a request came from the Assembly for an alternative Deputy Mayor to attend, it was too late to facilitate in their respective diaries.

As you are aware, I answered several questions from the Assembly relating to the economy, transition and recovery just a week before at Mayor's Question Time and will doubtless do so again before long.

We will always do our best to try and send a representative when asked by the Assembly. I look forward to the Assembly engaging constructively with my team and me in the future to ensure appropriate dates are chosen.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small number '2' written below the name.

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London