

Tom Copley AM | LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR
Working hard for Londoners

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Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA,
boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk

20 May 2019

Dear Boris,

You will undoubtedly be aware that the London Assembly is continuing to scrutinise the impact of your failed Garden Bridge project, particularly with regards to the blow it dealt to the public purse. As you know I am Chairing the London Assembly's Garden Bridge Working Group. However, today I'm writing in my position as Londonwide Assembly Member on behalf of London's taxpayers.

We learnt in February that the failed plan to build the bridge had resulted in a cost to the taxpayer of £43million. This is truly appalling and has understandably enraged taxpayers, particularly in light of the crippling austerity imposed on other areas of public spending since 2010.

Further investigations have exposed the myriad of follies and failures which have resulted in such a significant loss to public funds. The £21million forked out to contractors, without the necessary land being secured, has been well documented. So too has the £9.5million dissipated away on designer fees. These have, quite rightly, led to calls for the Trust to pay back these sums.

As we unpick the mess left behind, we have uncovered that the taxpayer has been asked to pay back £3,200 for a game of table tennis with you (or "whiff whaff" as you call it) that was bought by Garden Bridge donors (see [page 39](#)). Due to your failure to honour the game, and because the Garden Bridge Trust folded, taxpayers have had to pick up the tab. This will sting taxpayers already angry at the amount of money - which could have been allocated to more vital needs - that has been squandered.

Given that, as you have pointed out before, the £250,000 salary you receive for your Telegraph articles is mere 'chickenfeed' to you, it seems likely that you could very easily reimburse the taxpayer for this particular loss.

Your personal determination for this endeavour to see fruition was apparent for all to see. However, when you advocate so strongly for a project which bears such a significant cost to the public purse, you bear significant accountability. Therefore, I urge you once again to do the right thing and pay this £3,200 back to Londoners.

TfL Commissioner, Mike Brown, would no doubt be all too pleased to receive your cheque. His address is: Mike Brown, TfL Commissioner, Transport for London, Palestra, SE1 8NJ.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Copley', with a large loop at the end.

Tom Copley AM
LONDONWIDE ASSEMBLY MEMBER