

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA050820-0210

1 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 5 August 2020. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

Please provide a list of polls and results that have been commissioned by the GLA but have not been published by GLA Poll Results. Please only include all polls commissioned after May 2018.

I can confirm that the GLA holds information within the scope of your request. The GLA has commissioned polls that have not been published or have not been published in full.

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- GLA/YouGov coronavirus attitudes, actions and behaviour tracker survey
- GLA/YouGov quarterly tracker survey
- GLA/YouGov survey April 2020
- GLA/YouGov survey May 2020
- GLA/YouGov survey July 2020

Most of our polling is published at <https://data.london.gov.uk/gla-poll-results/> though some are published on the relevant pages of our website. This includes some of the polling listed above. However, there are also unpublished tracked questions related to these surveys.

For context, we publish all our polling within three months, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Polls commissioned to support work with a publication date outside of the three-month window, for example polling which supported the development of the Mayor's strategies, which will be published as part of a Consultation Report alongside the final strategy document.
- 2) Polls and questions commissioned to track a trend will be published after the last survey in a series has been conducted. The results of these surveys are to be published as a group to identify trends and to prevent surveys in the series that have still to be conducted being skewed by premature publication of current results.

In terms of the unpublished polls and results themselves, this information is exempt from disclosure at this time by virtue of the exemption provisions under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act:

Information is exempt information if—

- a. the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
- b. the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
- c. it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the referred to in paragraph (a).*

Section 22 of the FOI Act acknowledges that public authorities must retain the freedom to be able to determine their own publication timetables to allow them to deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publications.

The use of this exemption reflects the fact that the hitherto unpublished details of these polls will be made available on our website in the future, either as part of a Consultation Report, or after the last survey in a series has been conducted, which is in line with accepted practices and fair to all concerned.

Section 22 (1) is a qualified exemption and therefore it is necessary to consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption and withholding the information until the publication date is greater than the public interest in releasing the information before this date.

The public interest - i.e. the best interests of the public - is met by the GLA being open and transparent. This is demonstrated by the fact that some information has already been published regarding two of the polls listed above, and only the tracker elements remain to be published.

It is worth noting here that the withheld information relates to opinions rather than medical information which in some cases might tip the balance towards earlier publication in the public interest.

It is also in the public interest for the GLA to manage its resources effectively, and this includes setting reasonable publication schedules to meet this public interest. Given these are generally not long delays, we believe that there are no overwhelming public interest test considerations that warrant disclosure out of context or ahead of schedule.

We therefore find the balance of public interest falls in maintaining the exemption.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA050820-0210.

Yours sincerely


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-ourinformation/freedom-information>