

**(By Email)**

Our reference: MGLA230522-1563

Date: 09 June 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 23 May 2022. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*I refer to the Mayor's recent visit to the USA. I would like the following information please –*

- 1. How much did this trip cost ? Including travel. Was it First class travel ?*
- 2. Was the cost covered by our contribution to the community yearly cost (I would refer to it as "rates" paid to GLA)*
- 3. Did any other company contribute to the cost, or was it all paid by the London rate-payers ?*

*I believe the idea behind this was to promote trade and tourism to London, if this was not the reason, would you please tell me what the actual reason was.*

Our response:

I can confirm that the GLA holds information within the scope of your request.

The Mayor's visit to New York, San Francisco, Silicon Valley and Los Angeles between 8 and 12 May 2022 was his first international visit since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Banging the drum for London in key international markets is a core part of the Mayor's work to secure the economic and social recovery of London.

In New York, the Mayor:

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- launched the largest international tourism campaign that London has ever seen to attract American visitors to London
- announced a long-term partnership between London and Major League Baseball (MLB) alongside Rob Manfred, MLB Commissioner. This will deliver more MLB games in London and bring baseball to more Londoners at grassroots level
- attended a business dinner hosted by Mike Bloomberg to discuss tourism, culture and trade
- met with Secretary Hilary Clinton to discuss UK-US relations and the need for cities and national governments to work together
- spoke to over 75 business leaders at a London & Partners trade and investment reception on opportunities in London and the importance of diversity, equality and inclusion (DEI) in scaling tech companies.

In San Francisco and Silicon Valley, the Mayor:

- was joined by 11 female founders of London-based companies that are taking part in London & Partners' *BeyondHERizons* programme
- held a series of meetings with entrepreneurs and business leaders to bang the drum for even more investment in London. This included meetings with Ruth Porat, Chief Financial Officer at Google; Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn; and Saeed Amidi, CEO and Founder of Plug and Play, the world's largest early-stage investor which recently announced that it is setting up its first UK operations in London and Warwickshire.
- accepted an invitation from the Stanford Speakers Bureau to take part in a guest interview series with Stanford University faculty students. During this discussion, which was broadcast online, the Mayor discussed his priorities for London, including how global cities and tech companies can and must lead the way in making our future greener and fairer
- attended a high-level roundtable with senior investors and business leaders to hear their perspectives about London and how the city can position itself to continue to attract record levels of investment
- spoke at a London and Partners' trade and investment reception on why London continues to be the most popular destination for US companies
- was honoured to throw the ceremonial first pitch at Oracle Park in San Francisco ahead of the game between the San Francisco Giants and Colorado Rockies, in support of the MLB announcement

In Los Angeles, the Mayor:

- spoke at an interfaith event hosted by the Muslim Public Affairs Council at the Islamic Centre of Southern California
- joined representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), LA City Hall, public health officials and licensed cannabis retailers and growers at a lessons-learned roundtable discussion, convened by the LA Department for Cannabis Regulation (DCR)

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- spoke with some of California's most exciting businesses at a business breakfast roundtable, at which he invited them to choose London for future investments, and to collaborate with London's fastest growing creative technology businesses, 14 of which had joined the Mayor in LA as part of his Mayor's International Business Programme (MIBP)
- showcased London as a global leader for film in a roundtable with senior executives from Hollywood, becoming the first Mayor to bang the drum for London's film industry in Los Angeles.
- spoke at a creative industries reception at the newly-launched Holloway House, which was attended by influential representatives of the UK and US TV, fashion and film industries, including James Corden and Richard Curtis
- announced a ground-breaking talent partnership at Universal Studios alongside Dame Donna Langley, Chair of Universal Filmed Entertainment Group, and Adrian Wootton, CEO of Film London. This will see young Londoners from diverse backgrounds take part in NBCUniversal's Below-the Line Traineeship
- accompanied the Mayor of Los Angeles and previous Chair of C40 on a visit to the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) on a showcase of how LA and London are working together to improve air quality by delivering zero emissions vehicles.

Please find below and attached the information we hold within the scope of your request:

1. As with previous international visits, the Mayor and the GLA are fully committed to keeping costs to a minimum and maximising value for money.

The total cost for the City Hall delegation was £34,263.93. This includes flights costs of £2,802.36, accommodation £9,624.09, ground transport of £21,108.45 and miscellaneous costs of £572.52.

All expenditure for the Mayor's visit was in line with the Greater London Authority (GLA)'s [Expenses and Benefits Framework](#). United Airlines supported the visit through a package of flights where only taxes and fees were payable. Costs for all flights were therefore £254.76 per person. The agreement with United Airlines was for business class flights from London to New York, New York to San Francisco and Los Angeles to London, and economy class flights from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

2. Funding for the visit came from existing GLA budgets. The GLA receives a proportion of its income from London Council Tax payers. The GLA 'precept' is the Mayor's part of the council tax, collected by London's boroughs and the Corporation of London. It helps pay for the services provided by the GLA Group and the running of City Hall.
3. United Airlines supported the visit through a package of flights where only taxes and fees were payable, as above.

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## Further information

Further information about the purpose and content of the Mayor's visit can be found here:

- <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/sadiq-heads-to-america-to-bang-the-drum-for-london>
- <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-launches-new-international-tourism-campaign>
- <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-in-silicon-valley-to-on-tech-mission>
- <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/london-and-la-work-to-tackle-the-climate-emergency>
- It will also be covered in the next Mayor's [Report to the Assembly](#)

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA230522-1563.

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-our-information/freedom-information>

