

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA280617-8509

18 July 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further correspondence relating to your Garden Bridge FOI request.

You asked how you could narrow down the scope of your request in order to obtain information which would answer the following:

*Did the Mayor know that Margaret Hodge was to be paid when originally commissioned?
Who asked for the payment to be made?
What review was there of the quality for the work produced before the sign off was made?*

I can confirm we do not hold correspondence directly relating to your first or second question. I can, however, provide general information that will hopefully provide you with the information you require:

- *Did the Mayor know that Margaret Hodge was to be paid when originally commissioned?*
- *Who asked for the payment to be made?*

As set out in Mayoral Decision 2041, it was initially proposed that Dame Margaret would not be paid for her review of the Garden Bridge Project. However, following discussions with the Mayor's Office and in recognition of the scale of the work required to carry out the review, it was deemed appropriate to authorise the payment of £9,500 to Dame Margaret to reflect the significant amount of work involved. This was subject to the GLA's usual approval process and was set out transparently and approved through a Mayoral Decision MD2108. It was also declared by Dame Margaret in Parliament.

- *What review was there of the quality for the work produced before the sign off was made?*

The Garden Bridge review was an independent report delivered to the Mayor. The process of compiling and drafting the report was led and owned by Dame Margaret and her conclusions

were reached by using sources such as witness interviews and disclosures made under the Freedom of Information Act.

A GLA officer, on a part-time basis, supported Dame Margaret with some administrative matters, identifying and organising source material and a legal review of the report, looking in particular at defamation risks. At the end of the review, and once Dame Margaret was satisfied, she submitted her report to the Mayor and he published it in full as he indicated he would at the outset.

I understand since you submitted your enquiry, you have now received a response to a related MQT and Plenary question on the same topic with a referral at plenary to the TFL Investment and Performance sub-committee paper published online in response to the recommendations made by the review. You have also submitted a further information request and asked for an internal review, which we will respond to separately.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Paul Robinson
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>