

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

██████████
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA220621-6476

21 July 2021

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for information. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

In your recent email, you stated:

In regards to the content of the FOI request - I am not asking for opinions, but detailed information relating to public consultations, a normal process of government and regulated bodies when considering complex decisions. If no such information exists, i.e. the London Assembly has carried out no public consultations in respect to lockdown considerations, then a "no" will suffice; this is the same with votes.

For questions relating to decisions - these should be interpreted as the request for written records and information relating to the taking of decisions - i.e. if a request came into the Mayor of London's emails from central Government for a discussion related to lockdowns in London, this would be considered pertinent information, as would minutes of any meetings which took place, and emails relating to the making of these decisions.

Whilst I appreciate there is some room for interpretation in this request, I am open to any and all information which can be provided under the headings of these questions, this interpretation should be clear.

Please note that the London Lockdown itself was outside of the Mayor's remit. While there was an opportunity for London's political leadership and health and care leaders to provide input into the development of Government policy, the final decision sat with Government and there was not an option to reject the restrictions as a region.

Our response to your request, therefore, is as follows:

1. *What community engagement was carried out in defining the measures for the London area?*
2. *What did this community engagement consist of?*
3. *What public response have you received, what was the balance of for, and against within this?*

The health implications of COVID-19 were being tracked and monitored through a ONS survey (not related to testing), NHS indicators on hospitalisation and ICU demand, NHS Test and Trace data on testing and Public Health England data. During 2020 the Government increased the

published data. A number of research reports were also published which identified the impact on specific vulnerable cohorts, this included the PHE reports: [COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes](#) and [COVID-19: understanding the impact on BAME communities](#).

The Mayor commissioned a Rapid Evidence Review to gain a better understanding of the impact for London. Although not published until October the key findings and draft reports were shared across the GLA in previous months. [Rapid Evidence Review - Inequalities in relation to COVID-19 and their effects on London - London Datastore](#)

Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard convened a series of virtual roundtable conversations and community meetings with groups and community leaders April to September 2020. The 21 roundtables and community meetings reached and engaged with 250 civil society and community groups. The report [Map of Community Views: COVID-19 disproportionate impact of covid-19 - map of community views.pdf \(london.gov.uk\)](#).

Monthly check-in surveys gave real-time feedback on changes in voluntary and community sector priorities and issues based on their community contacts. More details about the London Community Response Survey <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-community-response-survey>

4. Which business owners - small and large - were consulted?

Throughout the pandemic, the Mayor and his team have been engaging with business of all sizes and sectors to understand their concerns as we continue to face the worst public health crisis for a generation. The Mayor chairs monthly meeting with the London Covid Business Forum which consists of business leaders from key business groups and industry bodies. The forum developed a roadmap for the full and safe re-opening of London's economy.

Business groups are also represented on the London Recovery board: [The London Recovery Board | London City Hall](#)

5. Which other impacts - e.g. mental health service impact - was included in considerations?

6. Who took the decision to agree to Government restrictions?

PHE London fed in key issues and data for London to Government through the national Bronze, Silver, Gold escalation process to provide the latest data and intelligence for London and the regional strategy for outbreak control.

PHE and the JBC liaise on these issues with London partners through the multi-agency Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) and London Leaders C19 Committee.

7. Was there a vote on this?

No – however, as described above this was not a decision taken at London level, however there has been political level engagement with London leaders

8. What was the outcome of this vote?

9. What issues, problems, or concerns were raised?

As above

10. Who is accountable for these decisions?

Roles and responsibilities are set out in [COVID-19 contain framework: a guide for local decision-makers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers)

11. What outcomes or metrics are required in order to exit London from this tier of restrictions?

- Incident rate per 100k
- Metrics for inclusion into different tiers were set by Government
- The different indicators monitored by Government can be seen here: [National COVID-19 surveillance reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports)

12. How often will this be reviewed?

This was reviewed via Government announcements.

13. What consideration was given to the poorest parts of the London community?

See engagement activity as above.

14. What impact is estimated for services under the Lord Mayor's control - e.g. TfL funding etc?

The Mayor of London's £17bn annual budget supports investment in public transport, fire services and policing as well as the work of City Hall.

Please see statements provided for the 2021-22 budget at [The Mayor's budget | London City Hall](https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayor/budget)

Further useful resources:

- [Budget and Business Plan - Transport for London \(tfl.gov.uk\)](https://www.tfl.gov.uk/about-us/budget-and-business-plan)
- [Information we publish | London Fire Brigade \(london-fire.gov.uk\)](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/information-we-publish)
- [LFB budget situation | Mayor's Question Time \(london.gov.uk\)](https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayor/lfb-budget-situation)
- [COVID-19 and the London Fire Brigade's finances](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/covid-19)
- [Budget Report - MOPAC | London City Hall](https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayor/budget-report)
- [Publication Scheme | London City Hall](https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayor/publication-scheme)

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

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: [Freedom of information | London City Hall](https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayor/freedom-of-information)