

MAYOR OF LONDON

Navin Shah AM

Chair of the London Assembly
C/o Lamide.Odanye@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA210920-4805

Date: 25 September 2020

Dear Navin,

Thank you for your letter of 21 September, following the London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meeting on 17 September. I was pleased to receive the Assembly motion on issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in London, and to have had the opportunity to discuss those matters with Assembly Members at the meeting.

I would like to thank the Assembly for the support expressed in the motion, and to thank the Assembly in turn for the work Members have been doing to support Londoners throughout the pandemic.

As events this week have made clear, we are at a perilous moment in the fight against this virus. Given the recent surge in cases and the Government's failure to set up an adequate testing or contact tracing system, we have had no choice but to implement further measures to slow the spread of the virus. I firmly believe that acting early, rather than having to impose more stringent measures later, is the right thing to do both for public health and the economy.

Throughout this pandemic, I have urged Ministers to go further in encouraging the use of face coverings, so I am pleased they will now be made compulsory in more public settings. It is also right that Londoners who can work from home do so.

With the further restrictions on the opening hours of pubs, bars, restaurants and other venues, the need for extra financial support for these businesses has never been more urgent. I was relieved that the Government finally took some action this week, but I still have serious concerns that the Government's new measures won't be enough to save businesses in London's key retail, hospitality, leisure and cultural sectors.

When I spoke to the Prime Minister this week, I made it clear that London has unique needs and challenges, and additional measures now need to be examined to protect both lives and livelihoods across the capital.

Londoners have made monumental sacrifices during this pandemic, and I will continue to advocate for them as the situation develops in the coming days and weeks. I would like to thank the Assembly for its support as I do so.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London