

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA260820-2210

21 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 26 August 2020. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

"I wish to make a Freedom of Information request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to ascertain the scope, timeframe and means of public consultation in the review of public monuments and place names being carried out by the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm.

In particular, I would like to know which statues and monuments are being considered for removal (temporary or permanent), relocation or replacement. I am interested to know in what way the public can offer contributions to that selection process. The statues of several well known slave traders and beneficiaries of the slave trade have been the focus of public scrutiny, including members of the Royal African Company, but very little attention has been paid to the role of the people who set up the Royal African Company, namely Charles II and his brother, the Duke of York, later James II. I am interested to know if the role of the monarchy in the slave trade will be included in the scope of the view."

We can confirm that the GLA does not hold information within the scope of your request. The Commission has not yet been recruited and has not held its first session.

When the Commission does begin to meet, information about meetings will be available on our website, and it will continue to give public updates on its progress. Public consultation, community engagement and communication will be an ongoing part of the Commission's work and there will be opportunities for the public to contribute to its review.

In the meantime, it may interest you to know that the City of London Corporation has just opened a public consultation asking people which landmarks they think are an issue within the City and what action they would like to see taken.

The consultation includes statues, memorials, blue plaques, commemorations, murals, street art, works on public hoardings, street names, building names, pavements, transport lines, stations and street furniture.

People are asked for their views on:

1. Whether statues, building and street names and other landmarks with links to slavery, and historic racism in the City of London - or on City Corporation sites managed outside the Square Mile - are a problem.
2. Which statues and other landmarks in particular are a problem.
3. What action should be taken – for example leaving statues and landmarks in situ, reinterpreting them visually in some way, or moving them.

Consultees are invited to respond in a freeform manner, addressing the areas identified, and sending feedback to the taskforce via consult.historicitems@cityoflondon.gov.uk before 24 November 2020.

You can also visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/historiclandmarksconsultation for more information.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA260820-2210.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Culture and Creative Industries Unit

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>