

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 June 2016 12:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** plu managers  
**Subject:** New Change.Org Petition : Declare London independent from the UK and apply to join the EU.  
**Importance:** High

Hiya,

We didn't receive a notification for this yet as it started 7 hours ago but its got 18,000+ signatures today!

<https://www.change.org/p/sadiq-khan-declare-london-independent-from-the-uk-and-apply-to-join-the-eu>

This is in line with the correspondence we've received about the referendum so far this morning.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Public Liaison Officer [REDACTED]  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor | City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London SE1 2AA  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Jack Stenner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 27 June 2016 18:06  
**To:** Patrick Hennessy; Samantha Hart; [REDACTED]; Nick Bowes; Leah Kreitzman; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Broadcast linmes for tomorrow

- Since Friday more than 1X0,000 Londoners have signed a petition calling for London to declare independence. Now I'm not seriously talking about independence today, but on behalf of all Londoners, I am demanding more autonomy for the capital - right now.
- We need more autonomy and devolution of power in order to manage the fallout of the EU referendum – and crucially to protect Londoners jobs, wealth and prosperity.
- I'm calling for the devolution of fiscal responsibility including tax raising powers, as well as more control over business and skills, housing and planning, transport, health and policing and criminal justice.
- Giving London more autonomy will help the entire country. When London succeeds, the whole of Britain succeeds. We're not asking for a bigger slice of the pie, we're just asking for more control over the slice we already receive.
- George Osborne and Boris Johnson both support more autonomy for London so there is no reason why we can't move fast on this.
- I'm pleased to have the support of London Councils who represent local authorities from all political parties and London First, who represent businesses in the capital.

### **Independent London?**

I am not planning to install border points on the M25, but we urgently need more autonomy in the capital.

### **What powers?**

We're working with London Councils and London First on the precise details, but it will include the devolution of fiscal responsibility including tax raising powers, as well as more control over business and skills, housing and planning, transport, health and policing and criminal justice.

### **Along lines of London Finance Commission?**

The London Finance Commission is a good starting point, but I think we'll have to go even further than their recommendations.

### **Corbyn/ Leadership?**

I understand the ballot is happening now, but this is an issue for Labour MPs and the Shadow Cabinet. I won't be getting involved.

**London seat at the table?**

I was pleased to see that the Prime Minister agreed yesterday that London should be involved in the negotiations – I'm clear that needs to be a full seat at the negotiating table.

**From:** Sarah Hitchings  
**Sent:** 28 June 2016 08:47  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: Sadiq Khan: Now London must 'take back control'

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## news release

Office hours: 020 7983 4070  
Out of hours and weekends: 020 7983 4000  
[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)  
[@LDN PressOffice](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 28 JUNE 2016**

## **Sadiq Khan: Now London must 'take back control'**

Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, today uses a keynote speech to top business leaders to demand more autonomy for the capital in the aftermath of the EU referendum.

Sadiq Khan's call came as he referenced the petition calling for London to declare independence that has gathered **175,175** signatures since Friday.

He declared: "As much as I might like the idea of a London city state, I'm not seriously talking about independence today. I am not planning to install border points on the M25!

"But on behalf of all Londoners, I am demanding more autonomy for the capital - right now. More autonomy in order to protect London's economy from the uncertainty ahead, to protect the businesses from around the world who trade here and to protect our jobs, wealth and prosperity."

He stressed that he wasn't "asking for London to get a bigger slice of the British pie", only for Londoners to "get more control over the slice of the pie we already get."

He reassured people in the rest of the UK that they will benefit from more devolution for

London “because when London succeeds, the rest of the country succeeds too. And when we fail, the entire nation fails.”

Speaking at The Times CEO Summit, Sadiq Khan urged the Government to “move fast” on devolution, and said “we can't hang around for the outcome of the negotiations before we give Londoners more control”.

He mentioned the strong support for devolution from the Chancellor George Osborne and Boris Johnson, who established the London Finance Commission report into devolution for London as Mayor.

It is understood that Mayor is looking for the devolution of fiscal responsibility including tax raising powers, as well as more control over business and skills, housing and planning, transport, health and policing and criminal justice.

The Mayor's call was today backed by business and Government leaders from across London.

Jules Pipe, Chair of London Councils, said: “London Government is speaking with one voice on this issue. We need more power over our own destiny to help cope with the fallout of leaving the EU.”

Baroness Jo Valentine, CEO of London First, said: “The Mayor is right that we must remain part of the single market. London businesses are absolutely clear this is critical to protecting jobs and prosperity, not just in the capital but across the whole of the UK. We also need London to keep the economic engine running by having the levers to drive forward projects such as Crossrail 2, doubling housebuilding and improving skill levels. Where the mayor needs more powers to act, he should be given them.”

Professor Tony Travers from the London School of Economics, said: ““The referendum result is a profound constitutional moment for the UK and there's no going back now. The London Finance Commission was established and enthusiastically backed by Boris Johnson. There should be no political block to making devolution to London (and other British cities) happen fast. This is a rare opportunity to reshape our constitution to ensure London has the powers it needs to allow people more direct access to those who make decisions about their

city. Whitehall is remote even to Londoners. The lesson of last week's vote is that people want to be listened to."

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **The Mayor's speech to the Times CEO summit**

"Take Back Control"

That's a slogan we've heard a lot over recent months.

"Take back control".

Well I don't know about you, but I don't feel like Britain has more control today, than we did this time last week.

The pound has plummeted and our credit rating has been downgraded.

We went from being the fifth biggest economy in the world to the sixth over the course of a single morning.

We face a long and difficult summer with a lame duck Government drawn from a deeply divided party.

Ironically, the speed of our exit from the EU looks likely to be decided in Brussels, Paris and Berlin, rather than in London.

And right now, CEO's like you are taking huge decisions about British jobs and prosperity in boardrooms from New York to Hong Kong - without giving a single thought to the British Government.

That certainly doesn't feel like taking back control to me.

Now it's no secret that I campaigned for Britain to remain in the EU - alongside many of you in this room.

And I know that others here campaigned vigorously on the other side.

For months, we were a nation divided.

Well we are united again now.

United in our acceptance of the decisive result.

The British people have clearly spoken.

They have expressed their democratic will.

And there can be no going back now.

There can be no middle way.

Britain will leave the European Union.

And over the last few days there has been a lot of criticism and recriminations about both campaigns.

But I don't have any time for those who say that the public were somehow tricked or conned into voting to leave.

Campaigns are tough - as I know better than anyone following the brutal Mayoral election this year.

But you can't blame campaigns for the decisions that the public make.

The British public knew what they were doing when they took this decision.

So the real question now is what next?

I've spent the last few days talking to business leaders like you.

And the message from executives and entrepreneurs could not be more clear.

They believe that the crucial thing now is that Britain must remain part of the European single market.

And I totally agree.

I'm sure that I don't need to tell you why:

500 million customers.

Nearly half of all British exports.

The passporting of our financial services.

The foundation of British jobs, wealth and prosperity.

Remaining in the single market needs to be priority one, two and three of our negotiation with the EU.

And what's more – I am confident we can achieve this.

It's the right thing to do and it's much more likely than not it will happen – so we should be saying this loud and clear.

And London - as the beating heart of the UK's financial sector - and the only region of England which voted to Remain - simply has to have a seat at the negotiations.

I'm glad that David Cameron said yesterday that London will have a voice in this process. And that voice must be a full seat at the negotiating table.

And that brings me back to where I started this speech, with that slogan we heard so much during the campaign:

"Take back control"

Because in this new world outside of the European Union.

In which we control our own destiny.

And in which we make our own decisions.

London has to take back control too.

Londoners - who voted for a different path than the rest of England - need more self determination.

We need to control our own destiny.

And we need to make our own decisions too.



In the four days since the referendum, 175,175 Londoners have signed a petition calling for London to become an independent city state.

This petition wasn't started by a politician or pushed by any particular interest group.

It was an organic movement born out of Londoners desire to have more control over their city's future.

Now, as much as I might like the idea of a London city state, I'm not seriously talking about independence today.

I'm not planning to blockade the M25.

But on behalf of all Londoners, I am demanding more autonomy for the capital - right now.

More autonomy in order to protect London's economy from the uncertainty ahead.

More autonomy to protect the businesses from around the world who trade here.

And more autonomy to protect our jobs, wealth and prosperity.

London needs to be able to determine its own future from now on.

Now I'm not asking for London to get a bigger slice of the British pie.

That wouldn't be fair.

All I'm asking is that we get more control over the slice of the pie we already get.

The ability to decide how the money already spent in London is distributed.

And this really isn't about pitting London against the rest of the UK.

Our nation has been too divided over recent months.

Remainers versus leavers.

North versus South.

Old versus young.

London versus the rest of the country.

But now is the time to bring people together and heal our divisions, rather than to divide and make them worse.

Which is why it's crucial that we now make clear that the entire UK will benefit from London getting more autonomy.

Because when London succeeds, the rest of the country succeeds too.

And when we fail, the entire nation fails.

Growth in London creates jobs, wealth and prosperity across the entire country.

So giving London more autonomy will benefit everyone in every part of the United Kingdom.

Greater devolution is the best path towards reuniting our country.

And it shouldn't be hard to move on this.

There is agreement across the board for more devolution.

From George Osborne - who will be speaking here later today - and who has been a real champion for devolution throughout 6 years at the Treasury.

To Boris Johnson, who established the London Finance Commission, and as my predecessor in City Hall championed the need for London to get more control over its own destiny.

But it is now absolutely critical that we move fast.

We can't hang around for the outcome of the negotiations before we give Londoners more control.

It needs to happen now.

So I am here today to ask for your help.

I have created a coalition of people willing to fight for Londoners to get more control.

We're backed by London Councils who represent our local authorities - Labour, Tory and Lib Dem.

And by London First - who represent many big businesses in the capital.

And today I'd like you to ask you all to support us too.

As the Chief Executives and Leaders of businesses big and small, your voice matters.

And I want you to back our plan to give Londoners more control, so that we can ensure that London thrives over the years ahead.

So that we can ensure London remains the best place in the world to do business.

So that we have the powers we need to protect jobs, wealth and prosperity.

So that I can ensure that all Londoners get the opportunities that our city gave to me when I was growing up on a council estate in South London.

And so that the entire UK can benefit from London's continued success.

Thank you.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Press information is available by [emailing economicdesk@london.gov.uk](mailto:economicdesk@london.gov.uk) or calling 020 7983 4070

GENERAL PUBLIC/NON-MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Call the Public Liaison Unit at the Greater London Authority on 020 7983 4100 DUTY PRESS OFFICER: For out-of-hours media enquiries, please call 020 7983 4000

**Sarah Hitchings**

Mayor of London's Press Office

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**Change.org petition - Change.Org - New  
petition - Declare London independent from  
the UK and apply to join the EU.**

**175,000+ supporters**

MGLA240616-6399

Dear Petitioner

Thank you for the petition submitted on the change.org website about XXXXXX.

**NB. Enter text of response in the third person XXXXXX**

Yours sincerely

**Public Liaison Officer**  
Greater London Authority

## **Change.org petition text:**

### **Title of petition:**

**Declare London independent from the UK and apply to join the EU.**

### **Link to petition:**

<https://www.change.org/p/sadiq-khan-declare-london-independent-from-the-uk-and-apply-to-join-the-eu>

### **Petition to**

- **Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan**

### **Text:**

London is an international city, and we want to remain at the heart of Europe.

Let's face it - the rest of the country disagrees. So rather than passive aggressively vote against each other at every election, let's make the divorce official and move in with our friends on the continent.

This petition is calling on Mayor Sadiq Khan to declare London independent, and apply to join the EU - including membership of the Schengen Zone (Umm, we'll talk about the Euro...).

Mayor Sadiq, wouldn't you prefer to be President Sadiq? Make it happen!

#londependence

This petition was started by [James O'Malley](#). Get in touch if you like: psythor (at) gmail.com or tweet [@Psythor](#).



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 June 2016 11:58  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; plu managers  
**Subject:** New Petition to you: MGLA240616-6399 London to become independent  
**Importance:** High

Hi,

I flagged this on Friday morning and have now created a case for it.

The Mayor has spoken about this today and Leah has requested to see any responses to London/EU ref petitions that we receive.

It is at now more than 175,000+ sigs.

[REDACTED], I would *imagine* this is for Gov Rels/international/LEO to create a line for.

[REDACTED], can you advise who has been dealing with this upstairs/can do the petition line?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** Patrick Hennessy  
**Sent:** 28 June 2016 12:19  
**To:** Jonathan Weisgard; Jack Stenner; Nick Bowes; Leah Kreitzman; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Samantha Hart; Hilary Merrett; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Londependence Petition

Initially we are quite relaxed about SK meeting him and would probably like to make a pic story and do some media around it.

We're not in any immediate rush but let's do it .

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the O2 network.

**From:** Jonathan Weisgard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 June 2016 12:13  
**To:** Patrick Hennessy; Jack Stenner; Nick Bowes; Leah Kreitzman  
**Cc:** Samantha Hart; Hilary Merrett; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Londependence Petition

Hi all,

Flagging that the person who created the petition calling for London Independence has been in touch. He is keen to make closer contact with the Mayor, deliver the petition. Please can you tell me how you would like to handle?

Thanks,

Jon

Jonathan Weisgard  
Senior Press Officer  
Mayor of London's Press Office  
0207 983 4635  
[REDACTED]

[@LDN\\_PressOffice](#)  
Out of hours: 020 7983 4000

[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)  
**GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY**

**From:** [REDACTED] [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]  
**Sent:** 28 June 2016 09:30  
**To:** economicdesk  
**Subject:** Londependence Petition

Hi there,

I'm the guy who created the petition calling for London Independence. I'm delighted to see the Mayor's response - and I should have a piece appearing in the Telegraph later today making essentially the same point!

I was wondering if there's anything I - and the other signatories can do - to help make devolution happen? Would it be possible to deliver the petition to the Mayor in person?

Cheers,



[REDACTED]

--  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]