

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: MGLA240615-8448

Date: 16 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act request - Garden Bridge

Thank you for your email of 23 June. Our response to your request is as follows:

- 1. How many meetings have taken place between Boris Johnson or any of his Deputy Mayors and Joanna Lumley since 2012 on the subject of the Garden Bridge?*

Meeting date	Attended by
26 July 2012	Sir Edward Lister - Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor of Policy and Planning Isabel Dedring – Deputy Mayor for Transport
24 September 2012	Boris Johnson – Mayor of London Sir Edward Lister - Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor of Policy and Planning Isabel Dedring – Deputy Mayor for Transport
17 December 2012	Isabel Dedring – Deputy Mayor for Transport

- 2. How much has been spent to date by the Greater London Authority on the Garden Bridge?*

The Garden Bridge is being developed by the Garden Bridge Trust, an independent charity set up to construct, operate and maintain it. The Mayor is supporting the bridge on the basis it will help deliver his objectives for transport, the environment and social and economic development. The GLA and TfL are providing limited support to the delivery of the Garden Bridge project, including funding of £30m to contribute towards construction costs. The Government is also providing £30m.

- 3. How much it is estimated will need to be spent on an annual basis by the Greater London Authority on the upkeep of the proposed Garden Bridge?*

The GLA is not expecting to spend anything on the upkeep of the bridge. Operation and maintenance are the responsibility of the Garden Bridge Trust. The Trust has done a detailed analysis of bridge costs and income to demonstrate that its funding plans are robust. Income (including from retail, events, merchandise, ongoing fundraising, a patrons' scheme, corporate memberships and an endowment fund) is projected to exceed operating costs by £1.025m each year. This balance in funds will be used to cover the operating costs of the Trust.

The GLA is providing guarantees to cover the maintenance of the bridge structure and maintenance and operation of the garden and public space should the Trust not be able to do so. Given the Trust's projected annual revenue surplus, it is the clear expectation that these guarantees will not need to be called upon. It is expected that income will exceed costs for the life of the bridge. There will also be a five yearly assurance process to incorporate any changes to the annual position. The Trust will articulate any changes to costs or income through a five yearly business plan, approved by the Mayor, which will demonstrate how future operating and maintenance costs will be covered.

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

Yours sincerely

Ian Lister

Information Governance Manager

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<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/gla/governing-organisation/freedom-information>.