

MAYOR OF LONDON

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

C/o Fiona.Bywaters@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA291119-8175

Date: 20 October 2020

Dear Jennette,

London Assembly Motion – Death of Blair Peach

I apologise for the delay in responding formally to your letter in respect of a motion agreed by the Assembly.

The motion called upon me to write jointly with the London Assembly to the Home Secretary requesting she set up a public inquiry to hold to account those responsible for the unlawful and tragic death of Blair Peach. The motion also called upon my Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) to publish an unredacted version of the Cass Report.

In my initial response to this motion, I suggested that this matter be discussed with my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. You have asked for further clarification regarding my response.

I completely understand how devastating this incident was for the family and friends of Blair Peach, who was campaigning to protect the anti-racist values that we both hold so dear. The confusion remaining around his death must compound that pain for those who loved Blair. There is no question that this remains a terrible injustice.

I know that the Met remains regretful that they were not able to conclude specifically who was responsible for Blair's death. However, back in 2011, having received advice from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) that there were no evidential opportunities left to progress the matter, the Met made a significant amount of material public.

Unfortunately, given the view of the CPS, it is unlikely that a public inquiry would result in the desired outcome of holding those responsible for the unlawful and tragic death of Blair Peach to account.

As the Assembly has acknowledged, there has been a significant change in the way deaths following police contact are handled since this devastating incident took place over four decades ago. Most notably they are now managed by a completely separate organisation, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

MAYOR OF LONDON

Therefore, given the time that has passed, the significant changes to policing since 1979 and the view of the CPS, it is with a heavy heart that I believe a public inquiry would be a cost to policing that would not be appropriate at this time given the significant budget pressures and challenges we are currently facing.

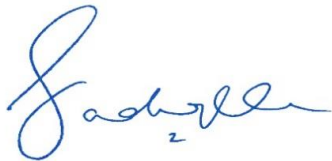
I know that this is not the result that you, and Blair's friends and family, would have hoped for. My thoughts and prayers remain with them.

With respect to publishing an unredacted version of the Cass report, MOPAC does not have access to the report. However, you will no doubt be aware that a significant amount of material has been released into the public domain by the Met which can be accessed here:

<https://www.met.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/met/investigation-into-the-death-of-blair-peach/>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London