

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly

C/o Anna.Sutton@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA150621-5878

Date: 26 August 2021

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 10 June 2021 – Motions

Thank you for your letter of 11 June about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 10 June 2021. Please see my reply to motions 3 and 9 below. I will reply to the remaining motions as soon as possible.

Motion 3 – EU Settlement Scheme

I welcome that the Assembly joined me in calling for Government to extend the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) deadline beyond 30 June 2021, to ensure that EU citizens living in London do not lose their rights. Disappointingly, the Home Office has not listened to our calls.

Despite this setback, my team has worked tirelessly to ensure that as many European Londoners and their families as possible applied to the EUSS before 30 June. My European Londoners Hub continues to provide comprehensive and up-to-date guidance and information for EU citizens in 28 community languages, which to date has received 1.7 million unique page views. The Hub also includes resources that explain government guidance on late applications to the EUSS.

I will continue to invest in new resources to support Londoners who find themselves with insecure immigration status to access their rights to residency and citizenship. I am also working proactively with government departments to prevent miscommunication and misinformation about EU citizens' rights beyond the 30 June deadline, including seeking commitments to support local authorities across London to help European citizens in their area.

I will continue to support those who have yet to receive their status through the EUSS through continued strategic investment in the immigration advice sector. So far, I have invested more than £1 million in bolstering the capacity of the immigration advice sector, including £180,000 specifically for civil society organisations to reach people less likely to have accessed the EUSS such as people sleeping rough, people with limited English, and children.

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There is no doubt that the lack of printed evidence of status creates barriers to accessing work, housing and essential services. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it is already causing problems for people leaving and re-entering the UK, and this will likely worsen now that we have passed the EUSS deadline of 30 June. Creating physical proof would help to reduce the risk of discrimination at the hands of landlords or employers who may be unable, or unwilling, to check the immigration status of a potential tenant or employee online.

Therefore, I agree with the Assembly's call for the Government to provide London's EU citizens with the option of a physical proof of their status. I am also glad that, as Chair of the Assembly, you have already written in these terms to the Home Secretary.

Motion 9 – Care Workers and London Living Wage

I agree that key workers in care have made an immeasurable contribution and faced extraordinary challenges through this pandemic. I am concerned that many of these workers continue to be disproportionately exposed to infection. They are also adversely affected by the Government's inaction to address inadequate Sick Pay provision and pay for those who do the right thing when instructed to self-isolate.

As you note, I do not have enforcement powers with regards to the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage. However, I am a proud supporter of the Living Wage Campaign and have ensured that the GLA Group is accredited by the Living Wage Foundation and pays the real Living Wage to direct employees and those in our supply chain. I have also placed the London Living Wage at the heart of my Good Work Standard. The community of accredited Good Work Standard organisations includes care sector employers, demonstrating that it is possible to commit to the Living Wage in this sector despite funding challenges. The majority of London boroughs have now gained accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation and I call on those that remain to make the same commitment. As anchor institutions across our city, it is incumbent on local councils to use their influence and lead by example on fair pay throughout their supply chains.

On the 20th anniversary of the Living Wage campaign, I look forward to working closely with the Living Wage Foundation to make London a Living Wage City Region. This programme will bring together employers, local communities, borough councils, workers, industry representatives in focused collective action to increase the uptake of the Living Wage in our city. Work strands are still being developed, but I anticipate a specific focus on increasing uptake among local councils and in the health and social care sector.

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