

MAYOR OF LONDON

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly
City Hall
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London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA041215-0688

Date: 23 FEB 2016

Dear Jennette

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 2 December 2015 – Motions

Further to my letter of 12 February, please find below my response to Motion 5.

Motion 5 – Migrant domestic workers

One of the key strands of my strategy on Violence Against Women And Girls is to work with relevant partners to ensure that the health, social and emotional consequences of violence are tackled. Every Londoner has the legal right to a safe and healthy working environment. Those that fall victim to any form of abuse, harassment or violence are at the heart of my commissioning strategies. Careful attention has been paid by my Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) to ensure the best possible reach of resources to all victims of crime and abuse. We have adopted the approach to commissioning suggested by the Independent Review of Victim Services in London, which has been important in ensuring that my victims' strategy is appropriately targeted to drive a 'whole system' approach to support victims to cope and recover.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) works with a number of NGOs and charities to encourage the reporting of allegations of modern slavery. Due to the difficulties faced by potential victims, it is critical that the MPS continues to work collectively to establish effective routes in which victims have the confidence to report. In 2014 the MPS confirmed only 16 allegations of domestic servitude. In 2015, this increased to 71. We expect this upward trend to continue as understanding amongst frontline staff and routes for reporting improve.

The independent review of the tied-visa was published in December 2015. Having considered the recommendations I will determine how the work of MOPAC and the MPS can support and tackle this critical issue. I also welcome the recent news of a partnership between Government, Polaris and Google to set up a modern slavery helpline to improve our collective response to modern slavery. If adopted by Government, many of the recommendations would provide an auditable and consistent process that, if breached, would make a prosecution of domestic servitude far easier.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London