

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

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Victoria Borwick AM

Chair, Health and Public Services Committee
City Hall
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Our ref: MGLA290711-4461

Date:

17 OCT 2011

Dear Victoria

Public Toilets in London

Thank you very much for your letter of 20 July.

I would always like to see more toilets open to the public across the capital. Although I do not have a specific statutory duty to provide public toilets in London, I am happy to champion and encourage those that do to take on the issue of provision.

I welcome the Assembly's report and would like to respond to your key recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1

Having reflected on this recommendation, I have come to the conclusion that this would be too difficult to implement in practice, particularly given security implications. The buildings occupied by the GLA Group are places of work and, for the most part, the toilets provided are for use by employees.

Recommendation 2

I will endeavour to gain continued support from the private sector where possible and, encourage those major companies - which mostly feature on every major high street and which are already signed up - to continue their support of the campaign.

Recommendation 3

As I recently stated in my response to Valerie Shawcross (MQT 1856/2011 - see appendix one), I would like to assure you that there will be provision of or access to toilets at stations across the Crossrail route. Officers at TfL are in contact with Crossrail on this matter and I will keep you informed of any further developments.

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Recommendation 4

The GLA's planning officers are currently considering the production of supplementary planning guidance to support implementation of the new London Plan. The provision of public toilets is addressed in part C of Policy 7.5 Public Realm of the new London Plan in the section that addresses local infrastructure. There are several possibilities for where planning guidance can be given about the provision of public toilets and the appropriate SPG will therefore address this point.

Recommendation 5

Transport for London has confirmed that they will enter data on their public toilets into your spreadsheet by Spring 2012. I understand you are contacting other toilet providers and my office will therefore be happy to supply you with details of those businesses signed up to the Open London scheme so that you can approach them with a request for this data. I am afraid I can not compel those businesses to provide you with this information, but I would be happy to for you to state that I support your request when you write to them.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London