

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Date: 21 March 2022

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 2 December 2021 – Motions

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2021 about the motions agreed at the Plenary meeting on 2 December. My reply to motion 1 is set out below. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

Motion 1 – Waking watches

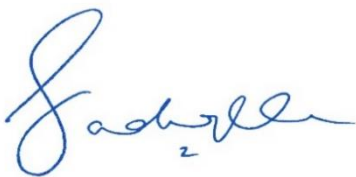
I share the Assembly's concern at the number of buildings that are considered not safe enough for residents to stay inside in the event of a fire, as well as the number that require a waking watch.

My officers continue to communicate with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on these matters and I recently met with the Secretary of State to discuss the building safety crisis. My focus remains on the need to address the systemic issues that drive the decisions to implement waking watches. I welcome the recent announcement that a further £27 million will be made available to install fire alarms in high-risk buildings. This is an important step to help more people avoid the enormous cost of waking watches.

With regard to the request for the establishment of an approved list of waking watch providers, I would support efforts to raise standards in this industry, although the Greater London Authority and London Fire Brigade (LFB) do not have the powers to create or approve such a list. For LFB this would also produce a conflict of interest with their statutory role enforcing the Fire Safety Order.

With regard to an audit of the number of buildings in London that have had a common fire alarm system fitted but still require a waking watch, I have been advised that LFB is currently looking at how it can capture this information as part of the data it holds on buildings with waking watches.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London