

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Tony Arbour AM**  
Chairman of the London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

**Our ref:** MGLA101116-2503

**Date:** 24 JAN 2017

*Dear Chairman Arbour,*

## **London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 2 November - Motions**

Thank you for your letter of 4 November 2016 about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 2 November. My reply to each motion is set out below and I apologise for the delay in responding.

### **Motion 1 – Equal Civil Partnerships Campaign**

I have written to Charles Keidan expressing my support of the Equal Civil Partnerships Campaign. I am passionate about achieving equality for everyone and that means giving mixed-sex couples the right to a civil partnership.

I recognise that there are many reasons why some people may not want to enter into a traditional marriage, and agree that everyone should have the right to express their relationship in a loving union that works for them. I will express my support for the introduction of Equal Civil Partnerships to the government, should the Court of Appeal reject this couple's application to form a civil partnership. All couples, regardless of sex or sexual orientation, should be equal before the law.

### **Motion 2 – Private Rented Accommodation**

As you rightly note, I have been pushing government to devolve powers over the regulation of London's private rented sector, starting with powers over property licensing schemes.

My officers have already visited Edinburgh to understand how the Scottish Government has made the most of its powers in this area, and I will consider similar joint work with the devolved administration in Wales.

### **Motion 3 – Hotel Workers in London**

I would like to see all Londoners paid at least the Living Wage and acknowledge there has been slow uptake of the London Living Wage within the hospitality sector. I will continue to encourage as many London employers as possible to become accredited and believe there already exists a strong evidence base that shows paying the Living Wage reduces absenteeism and sick leave, makes it easier to recruit and retain staff, boosts morale and increases productivity.

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I will write to Margot James MP and ask for reassurance about the implementation of the minimum wage in London.

## **Motion 4 – Local Journalism – Newsquest Group**

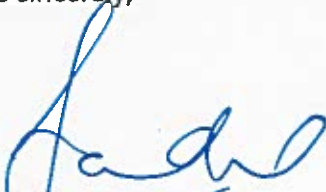
I continue to share the concerns many have regarding the reduction of newsroom staff among the Newsquest group of newspapers and its impact on local journalism. At Mayor's Question Time on September 14, I stated my view that local press is vital to a healthy democracy by providing public scrutiny of political decisions and holding politicians and decision-makers to account. Since that meeting, my officers have met with the NUJ to further discuss this dispute and consider how we might be able to help, and remain available to all parties should it be considered helpful. That offer notwithstanding, it remains my hope that Newsquest will honour their assurances to continue to produce high-quality local newspapers in London, and it is still my concern that this important undertaking is in serious jeopardy if the current situation is allowed to continue for much longer.

## **Motion 5 – Faith Schools**

I am aware that my Deputy Matthew Ryder is responding to your motion separately in more detail; however my broad view is that the government should not be bringing forward measures that make integration less likely. Schools have an important role to play in bringing communities together, and removal of the 50% cap for religious free schools without suitable measures to replace it will make this less likely.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadik Khan**  
Mayor of London