

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA131118-7829

10 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 12 November 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for:

*...the attendees of the meeting between the Mayor and Crossrail Ltd on 26 July 2018 and any email correspondence associated with that meeting, and a copy of the Mayor's diary engagements for 25 July 2018 and 26 July 2018.*

Please note that this was a regular meeting between the Mayor and TfL with Crossrail on the agenda and Sir Terry Morgan and Simon Wright were invited in for one agenda item which was a verbal update on the project. Crossrail Ltd did not submit any associated papers in advance for that particular agenda item. Please find attached correspondence that the GLA holds within scope of your request (this also details the attendees of the meeting).

In line with our publication scheme, the Mayor's diary is published on our website twice a year. The GLA has already published the Mayor's diary covering the period November 2017 to April 2018. The next publication of the diary will include dates from May 2018 to October 2018:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/publication-scheme/mayor-londons-diary>

The Mayor's key engagements are also published in the Mayor's report which forms part the meeting papers at each Mayor's Question Time:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/mayor-london/mayors-reports-assembly>

Section 22 of the FOI Act provides an exemption for information that is intended to be published in the future. Information is exempt if, at the time when the public authority receives a request for it:

- the public authority holds the requested information;
- the public authority intends the information to be published at some future date, whether that date is determined or not; and

- in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information until its planned publication.

Section 22 acknowledges that public authorities must have freedom to be able to determine their own publication timetables. This allows them to deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication. It is however necessary to consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and withholding the information until the publication date), is greater than the public interest in releasing the information before this date.

In this instance, it is felt that there is a greater public interest for the GLA to keep to its original timetable of disclosure. The decision to publish the Mayor's diary on a six month basis was made in order to allow the Mayor's office to effectively manage their workload and the work required to prepare such a large amount of information for publication.

The decision to proactively publish the Mayor's diary demonstrates the GLA's commitment to openness and transparency and we believe a six month publication cycle for this information is appropriate. The public interest in the release of the Mayor's meetings and key engagements is also met by the more regular publication of the Mayor's report.

The public interest - i.e. the best interests of the public - is met by the GLA being open and transparent, but also by managing its resources effectively, and this includes setting reasonable publication schedules to meet this public interest. While there is an obvious public interest in the release of the Mayor's diary, we believe this is met by our intention to publish this information in the coming month. We do not believe the public interest favours the disruption that would be caused to GLA staff by expediting this publication when its early publication would not meet any immediate or exceptional public concerns at the present time.

We therefore find the balance of public interest falls in maintaining the exemption and the GLA publishing this information in accordance with our existing publication timetable.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Robinson**  
**Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>