

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM**  
Chair of the London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA

**Our ref:** MGLA121119-6895

**Date:** 14 JAN 2020

*Dear Jennette,*

Thank you for your letter on 12 November 2019 about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 31 October. Please see my reply to each motion is set out below:

## **Motion 1 – Celebrating London's Diversity**

I will continue to champion and celebrate the diversity of our city and do everything I can to support EU Londoners through the Brexit process.

Since the referendum decision, I have made it clear that, despite Brexit, the more than 1 million EU citizens living in London are Londoners. They are our friends, neighbours and colleagues and belong in our city. London is and will always remain open to the world.

## **Motion 3 – PrEP Commissioning**

I replied to this motion on 13 November 2019.

## **Motion 4 – Extending the Franchise**

I welcome this motion. It is not right that so many Londoners are unable to cast their vote in this potentially nation-defining election. We need to do much more to ensure any future vote on EU membership is truly about all of us and London's democracy works for and engages all Londoners. I remain committed to encourage active participation and democratic engagement.

Our 1 million EU Londoners did not have a voice or a vote in the 2016 EU Referendum, despite the fact that this is their home and they are part of the fabric of London. The result of that referendum continues to negatively impact EU Londoners and their families. EU Londoners are now required to apply for Settled Status to legally reside in Britain post-Brexit – this is an immigration status that is not enshrined in primary legislation and does not confer full voting rights. It is a scandal that EU citizens and British nationals living abroad were denied a vote in the May 2019 European Parliament elections.

I raised concerns last April that EU citizens could be shut out of the European elections as a result of the Government's mismanagement of the democratic process. The Government response, that EU nationals resident in Britain could vote in European Parliament elections in their country of origin when London is their home, has only added insult to injury. Hence, I have called for an inquiry into this mass disenfranchisement and for the Government to move urgently to confirm the voting rights of all eligible EU citizens beyond 2019.

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Another group for whom decisions around Brexit really matters because it is their future that is on the line, is young people. Their voice was not properly heard during the 2016 EU referendum and this should not be allowed to happen again in such a crucial democratic decision for the future of our country. One important way to achieve this would be to lower the voting age to 16. Their chance to vote in the Scottish independence referendum and consequent high turnout in Scottish Parliament and local elections has proved that 16- and 17-year olds are more than capable and that they want to be heard, especially when we invest in citizenship education and political literacy resources.

So, we should look to Scotland and Wales, who are determined to bring democracy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and expand the franchise by age and by residency, so all Londoners have a voice in running our great city.

More broadly, we need to be vigilant against barriers to democratic participation and ensure London and England are not left behind when it comes to democratic reform. The Government's plan is to ask voters to bring ID to the polls is the latest barrier to democratic engagement. Based on figures from the Electoral Commission, photo voter ID requirements are trying to solve an issue that does not exist. These changes are also denying vulnerable electors – those most in need of a voice – their vote. I support calls from civil society organisations to reconsider rolling out voter ID requirements in the future.

I believe civic participation is a key pillar of social integration, and in my social integration strategy I committed to "equip more Londoners to participate in democratic processes such as voting, public debates and citizen-led action." In September 2019, the Greater London Authority (GLA) coordinated and collaborated with statutory bodies on a London Voter Registration Week pilot programme to reduce inequalities in voter registration among young people, in particular. London has one of the lowest voter registration rates across UK regions and nations. I am pleased that the pilot project had the support of both the London Assembly and a broad civil society coalition and that it was a success.

At a time when British democracy is in crisis, we should encourage and facilitate participation in the democratic system, so I will not allow Londoners' voices to be silenced. I will be writing to the Minister for the Constitution about these key civil rights issues early this year.

## **Motion 5 – Climate Friendly Partnerships**

I welcome this motion. It is important that businesses across the capital are also playing their part to reduce their emissions, make their buildings more energy efficient and deploy renewable technologies and lower carbon heating systems if we are to successfully transition to a net zero London. I thank the Assembly for recognising the efforts that we have made to date on divesting London Pension Fund Authority assets from fossil fuels. Since I was elected in 2016, this has been a key priority of mine in our efforts to decarbonise London and demonstrates how we are actively seeking to de-link our activities from companies with fossil fuel investments.

1. I launched London's 1.5C Compatible Climate Action Plan in 2018 as part of the London Environment Strategy. The plan sets out a series of actions and scenarios that will be required in order to reduce the city's emissions and reach my target of making London net zero by 2050.

As part of the London Environment Strategy, I have been engaging with businesses and the wider GLA group to help support further carbon reductions and improved environmental performance in the commercial and public sectors.

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In autumn 2018, I launched a Business Climate Leaders Group with 11 international companies that have a significant footprint in London, with over 3% of the city's employees and over 28 million square feet of owned and leased buildings and assets in the city, including Tesco, Sky and Landsec. In December 2018, the businesses disclosed their London based emissions to CDP, a global first for businesses to report their city-level climate impact. We specifically chose to work with these companies due to their strong environmental track record and record in reducing emissions to date. Working with us, the companies have set out a series of commitments to deliver greater environmental performance in four areas, namely: waste, clean transport, clean energy and sustainable buildings.

We are also taking measures internally as part of our own operations. The GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy ensures we support the environment and the community through the way we procure and manage contracts in City Hall and the Functional Bodies. This has led to improved environmental outcomes in millions of pounds' worth of public contracts and collaborating with our suppliers to encourage further improvements.

For example, 32% of GLA Group vehicles (including Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade) are zero-emission capable, and we are working towards 100% by 2025. We are supporting a low-carbon 'circular economy' by cutting down on waste – including in new building developments, contracts for uniforms, and by cutting down on single-use plastics in events and cafes. Meanwhile, City Hall runs entirely on green electricity and gas.

2. As mentioned, as part of the Business Climate Leaders Group, we are working with 11 businesses across the capital who are strongly committed to taking action to reduce their emissions and improve their environmental performance, setting an example for others in the city to follow. I am working with each business to roll out electric vehicle charging, improve their buildings and invest in renewable projects across the capital. For each, companies adopted mandatory baseline commitments, and selected "further faster" actions amongst a set that all support the London Environment Strategy goals.

They have all committed to:

- Setting interim energy efficiency targets that demonstrate trajectory towards zero carbon buildings by 2050 in London.
- Procuring 100% renewable electricity and mapping on site renewable potential by 2020.
- Switching to zero emission capable vehicles and/or support the development of EV charging by 2025.
- Reducing waste generated by 50% by 2030; 75% recycling rate and zero waste to landfill by 2025.

All 11 businesses have submitted regular progress reports to us, showing they are on track to meet their baseline targets and will submit GHG data annually to show reductions over time.

3. We do not have a specific policy to avoid working with companies that seek to greenwash their reputations whilst undertaking limited environmental activities. However, as part of the work which we have done to date on engaging with businesses as part of our Environment Strategy, we have specifically sought to work with those companies who only demonstrate strong environmental credentials. For example, each of the businesses in our London Business Climate Leaders Group have strong green credentials, having set science-based emissions reductions targets and/or obtained an A rating from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). They also have commitments with RE100,

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EP100, EV100 and have set ambitious goals to be zero carbon or zero waste by 2050. In December 2018, the businesses disclosed their London based emissions to CDP, a global first for businesses to report their city-level climate impact. We specifically chose to work with these companies due to their strong environmental track record and record in reducing emissions to date.

As I have noted, I have also taken clear steps to divest GLA cash assets from fossil fuels and have worked with the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) to advance this agenda.

In light of strong support from Londoners, in 2017, I introduced principles to guide investment decisions within our Climate Policy for cash investments that are under the GLA's control, resulting in fossil-fuel free city funds for the separate police, fire and transport functions.

Since then, I have worked with the LPFA to advance this agenda and I continue to champion the LPFA to take steps to achieve further divestment in its portfolio. Following continued discussions, the LPFA's climate change policy changed in summer 2017 and now stresses that a core part of the fund's fiduciary duty is to identify – and act to reduce – the risks from climate change, similar to the GLA's policy on fossil fuel investments. This has been recently demonstrated through our complete divestment from holdings in Exxon Mobil. I am pleased to note the latest figures which demonstrate that Direct fossil fuel extractive holdings in the LPFA's pension assets have fallen further than you noted, from 1% of assets under management at the start of my administration to 0.2% today. However, I am continuing to work with them to push for this to reduce further.

Last year, in partnership with C40 and New York City, I launched the C40 Divest/Invest Forum. Based on a model of peer-to-peer learning, this is an initiative to help other urban leaders in cities across the world to kick-start a transition to divestment and accelerate green investment in their policies, through learning from other cities who have taken successful action, and examining how they can engage with pension funds and asset managers to drive more sustainable investment at the local and national level.

As part of this forum, this month I will launch a Divest/Invest toolkit with Mayor DeBlasio of New York, which will help cities pursue divestment based on the actions we have been taking in London to implement the Mayor's commitment to divestment. We will continue to work with the LPFA as they develop their climate policy to ensure further divestment from companies involved in high carbon activities.

### **Motion 8 – Tackling Loneliness in London**

I replied to this motion on 27 November 2019.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London