

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

Our reference: MGLA280322-7889

Date: 25 April 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 27 March 2022. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

Please provide a copy from the Mayor to the SoS recent decision to refuse transfer of the Cockfosters Station Car Park under a lease to Connected Living London under s163 of the GLA Act.

Please find attached the information we hold within the scope of your request.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA280322-7889.

Yours sincerely

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>

MAYOR OF LONDON

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Date: 25 March 2022

Dear Grant,

Since becoming Mayor, I have made tackling London's housing crisis one of my top priorities. Whilst there is still a long way to go, excellent progress is being made and this week I was pleased to announce that more than 11,000 new City Hall-funded council homes have been started since 2018. This has been possible through close working with London boroughs and the government.

I was therefore deeply concerned at your recent decision to invoke a clause in the 1999 GLA Act to block a vital scheme that would have delivered hundreds of new homes, of which 40% would have been genuinely affordable, on TfL land adjacent to Cockfosters station. At a time when London is facing a serious housing crisis I cannot understand why you would prioritise keeping a car park over building desperately new homes.

I was also very surprised at your decision, given the very positive conversations I have had with Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, about the government's ambition to build the new homes families in this country need. This is an ambition I entirely share.

This scheme had been approved by democratically elected local councillors from Enfield Council who, as you will be aware, have been set an ambitious target for housing delivery by the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, including being designated as a 'presumption authority'. Your refusal of the scheme, by giving priority instead to hundreds of car parking spaces over hundreds of much-needed homes, sends a worrying and frankly contradictory message from government. The scheme would also have generated much needed revenue for TfL to reinvest in public transport, so this decision also undermines the agreements we are negotiating regarding TfL housing delivery.

MAYOR OF LONDON

London needs more homes, not more car parks. Vetoing new affordable homes on this site hampers our ability, and that of Enfield Council, to fix London's housing crisis. I urge you to think again about your decision, and hope you will reflect on the message sent by the government blocking home-building schemes before you seek to intervene in any future housing schemes being planned on the TfL estate. In the meantime I have asked TfL to explore all available options to ensure that this development can go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities