

29 November 2011

Boris Johnson  
Mayor of London  
City Hall  
London  
SE1 2AA

Dear Mayor,

**Board of The Royal Parks**

The Environment Committee of the London Assembly held a meeting on Wednesday 12 October 2011 to discuss the future of the Royal Parks. The Committee discussed issues about the management of the Parks with:

- Mark Camley, Chief Executive, The Royal Parks;
- Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Greater London Authority (GLA); and
- Jeff Jacobs, Head of Paid Service and Executive Director, GLA.

During the course of the discussion, the Committee agreed that the Board of The Royal Parks should be as accountable as possible and specifically:

1. That, although the post is not and could not be covered by Section 4 of the Greater London Authority Act 2007 of offices to which the Mayor makes appointments which are subject to the confirmation process set out in Schedule 4A to the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the Chair of the Board of The Royal Parks should be subject to a similar confirmation process at the discretion of the Mayor.
2. That the meetings of the Board of The Royal Parks should, where possible, be held in public, with the agenda and minutes made available in accordance with other public bodies, and any confidential matters discussed in private.

3. That the Mayor should consider appointing to the Board of The Royal Parks a representative of the Friends of the Royal Parks to give users of the Parks a voice in the running of the Royal Parks.

I would urge you to agree the Committee's requests above to ensure that the governance of the Royal Parks is as open and transparent as the people of London would expect. In his letter to you dated 12 October 2011 John Penrose MP, Minister for Tourism and Heritage, talks about the new Board "giving Londoners a real say in how the Parks are run". I hope you agree that the above proposals offer the opportunity to fulfil that aspiration.

Yours sincerely,

**Murad Qureshi AM**  
Chair of the Environment Committee