

Ed Williams

From: Steve O'Connell
Sent: 05 April 2018 13:37
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Alison Bell; Ed Williams
Subject: Re: PCC - emergency meeting draft release

Fine. Alison/Ed happy with wording?

Steve

Cllr Steve O'Connell AM FRSA

London Assembly Member Croydon Sutton
Chair Assembly Police and Crime Committee
Kenley Councillor
Spokesman Safety and Communities
Trustee CPFC Foundation
Chair Purley Kenley RSPCA

[REDACTED]
@StevO_Connell

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Thu, 5 Apr 2018 13:26
To: Steve O'Connell >
Subject: PCC - emergency meeting draft release

Hi Steve

Could I get your approval on this please?

LONDON ASSEMBLY

Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

Media Office: 020 7983 4283

www.london.gov.uk

NEWS RELEASE

2018/114

Thursday, 5 April 2018

Assembly calls emergency meeting as London murder rate soars

The **London Assembly Police and Crime Committee** has requested the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan appear at an urgent meeting on Wednesday April 11 at 2:30pm, as the capital's murder rate rose above 50 so far, this year.

Steve O'Connell AM, Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee, has called the meeting.

The committee will also invite senior Metropolitan Police representatives to the meeting.

With local elections taking place across London, special rules aimed at not affecting the result are in place, so the informal meeting will be closed and the broadcast released after the elections take place on May 3.

The Police and Crime Committee examines the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which oversees the Metropolitan Police.

It also investigates key issues relating to policing and crime in London, including serious violence, front line policing, and counter-terrorism.

Notes for Editors:

1. London Assembly Police and Crime Committee.
2. As well as investigating issues that matter to Londoners, the London Assembly acts as a check and a balance on the Mayor.

For media enquiries, please contact [REDACTED]. For out of hours media enquiries, call 020 7983 4000 and ask for the London Assembly duty press officer. Non-media enquiries should be directed to the Public Liaison Unit on 020 7983 4100.

Best wishes

Paul Robinson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 April 2018 14:09
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@met.pnn.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@met.pnn.police.uk; MOPAC Private Office; MO Correspondence Team
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent informal meeting of PCC, Wednesday 11 April at 3pm

Good afternoon

On behalf of the Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee, the Mayor, MOPAC and Metropolitan Police are requested to attend an urgent informal meeting of the committee on **Wednesday 11 April at 3pm in Committee Room 5**, to discuss the response to the ongoing increase in knife crime and other serious violence in the capital.

In light of the pre-election period, the meeting will be closed and the broadcast will be released after the elections take place on May 3. A factual statement will be published later today to highlight that the meeting is taking place.

Please could you confirm attendance as soon as possible with [REDACTED], on 020 7983 [REDACTED] I will be in touch shortly with further information.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Scrutiny Manager

Direct 020 7983 [REDACTED]

LONDONASSEMBLY

City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA

Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

london.gov.uk/assembly

[Sign up to our monthly newsletter](#)

Follow us



Paul Robinson

From: Emma Strain
Sent: 07 April 2018 08:30
To: Gareth Bacon
Cc: Ed Williams
Subject: Re: Message from the Mayor - Invitation to Violent Crime Summit in the Chamber - 9.30 -10.30am on Tuesday 10 April

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Gareth,

As Monitoring Officer I have briefed the Mayor's office about pre-election period rules.

I have provided guidance to the Mayor's office that the meeting to which you have been invited below must be held in private and cannot be broadcast during the pre-election period. This aligns with the advice on the PCC meeting which I discussed with Ed. Thus far, this meeting has only been communicated to those invited, however I understand a factual press release will also be put out. The meeting is a cross-party one to provide updates to London MPs, a number of whom I understand have either been in touch or have been publicly asking questions. The Use of Resources guidance provides that the "Mayor, Assembly Members and GLA Group members hold key political or civic positions and as such can comment in an emergency or where there is genuine need for such a response to an important event".

Best,
Emma

From: Gareth Bacon [REDACTED] >
Date: Friday, 6 April 2018 at 21:03
To: Ed Williams <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, Emma Strain [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Message from the Mayor - Invitation to Violent Crime Summit in the Chamber - 9.30 - 10.30am on Tuesday 10 April

Ed/Emma,

I'm unsure if this is best directed at Ed or Emma, but I would like to know what advice has been given to the Mayor's office regarding purdah rules.

He has been AWOL for most of this week, citing purdah rules as the justification. Then he broke his media silence and finally the email below which, coincidentally, seems to have been arranged after the PCC demanded he appear before them but has conveniently been scheduled the day before the PCC meeting.

The PCC meeting has - apparently because of purdah rules - been required to be held in private, with no broadcasting or transcript available until after May 3rd, yet the Mayor is allowed to pull the stunt below and publicise it as widely as possible.

I would like to know how this can possibly be a consistent reading of purdah rules?

I would be grateful for a response as soon as possible.

Best regards,
Gareth

Gareth Bacon AM
Leader, GLA Conservative Group
London Assembly Member for Bexley & Bromley

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sarah Gibson [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>
Date: 6 April 2018 at 19:03:03 GMT+2
Subject: Message from the Mayor - Invitation to Violent Crime Summit in the Chamber - 9.30 - 10.30am on Tuesday 10 April

Invitation to Violent Crime Summit, Tuesday 10 April, City Hall, 9.30am to 10.30am with the Mayor of London and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

I'm angered and heartbroken by the number of violent deaths on our streets. As a London Assembly Member I know you will also have been devastated by the recent attacks that have happened in our city.

I would like to invite you to an emergency summit I am hosting for London's MPs, Council Leaders and Assembly Members next week where Commissioner Cressida Dick and I will brief you on what action we are all taking to cut violent crime across the capital. I have also invited the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd.

The event will take place in the Chamber of City Hall on 10 April from 09.30am to 10.30am.

I really hope to see you there so we can continue to work together to keep London safe.

If you are able to attend please rsvp to [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Sarah Gibson | Head of Government and EU Relations | Mayor's Office
City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA
Tel: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

Paul Robinson

From: Sarah Gibson
Sent: 07 April 2018 14:49
To: Emma Strain
Cc: Nick Bowes; Patrick Hennessy; Jack Stenner; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Crime summit and purdah - query from [REDACTED]

Thanks Emma - I will go back to her referencing the guidance.

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Apr 2018, at 14:03, Emma Strain [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)> wrote:

Hi,

My advice as the Monitoring Officer:

The GLA's Use of Resources guidance states that "It is acceptable for the bodies / individual members [the Mayor and London Assembly] to respond in appropriate circumstances to events and to legitimate service enquiries, provided that the replies are factual and not party political in tone or content (they should not seek to affect support, in any way, for parties or candidates). The Mayor, Assembly Members and GLA Group members hold key political or civic positions and as such can comment in an emergency or where there is genuine need for such a response to an important event."

Both the Mayor's Summit and the London Assembly Policing and Crime Committee, scheduled next week, will be held in private and cannot be broadcast during the pre-election period. Both meetings are cross-party. The Mayor's summit will provide updates to London MPs, a number of whom I understand have either been in touch or have been publicly asking questions.

Best,

Emma

From: Nick Bowes [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>
Date: Saturday, 7 April 2018 at 13:41
To: Patrick Hennessy [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>
Cc: Sarah Gibson [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>, Jack Stenner [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>, Emma Strain <[\[REDACTED\]@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>
Subject: Re: Crime summit and purdah - query from [REDACTED]

Ace

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Apr 2018, at 13:33, Patrick Hennessy [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)> wrote:

Yup. Emma was happy with the release going out

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Apr 2018, at 12:51, Nick Bowes [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dunno. Think that's a Q for Emma?

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Apr 2018, at 12:49, Sarah Gibson
[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi,

[REDACTED] has asked me if we can hold our summit during purdah and whether i need to seek advice? Can you advise on response. Thanks, Sarah

Sent from my iPhone

Paul Robinson

From: Alison Bell
Sent: 10 April 2018 10:46
To: Emma Strain
Cc: Ed Williams
Subject: Fwd: Assembly calls emergency meeting as London murder rate soars
Attachments: image004.png; image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

FYI Emma.

Alison Bell
External Communications Manager
London Assembly
[REDACTED]

Your message is important & deserves a quick response. However, I am on the move & not at my desk. Please forgive any brief, blunt & grammatically imperfect replies.

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 10 April 2018 at 10:44:20 BST
To: "Alison Bell ([REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)" [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Assembly calls emergency meeting as London murder rate soars

Hi Alison,

Several [REDACTED] would like to film this tomorrow.

I just had a chat to [REDACTED] who said there were GLA rules in place set by the monitoring officer but I've been asked to challenge this on the basis it's a London wide issue which is of significant editorial interest to us and the event will be balanced as there will be an even spread of party representatives there.

As far as we are concerned there is no reason why this should be off limits and we will be making the point that if we aren't allowed to film that it's a secret meeting and we've been barred from filming it.

Could you let me know who the monitoring officer is please?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk]
Sent: 05 April 2018 14:10
Subject: Assembly calls emergency meeting as London murder rate soars



Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

NEWS RELEASE

2018/114

Thursday, 5 April 2018

Assembly calls emergency meeting as London murder rate soars

The **London Assembly Police and Crime Committee** has requested the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan appear at an urgent meeting on Wednesday April 11 at 3pm, as the capital's murder rate rose above 50 so far, this year.

Steve O'Connell AM, Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee, has called the meeting.

The committee will also invite senior Metropolitan Police representatives to the meeting.

With local elections taking place across London, special rules aimed at not affecting the result are in place, so the informal meeting will be closed and the broadcast released after the elections take place on May 3.

The Police and Crime Committee examines the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which oversees the Metropolitan Police.

It also investigates key issues relating to policing and crime in London, including serious violence, front line policing, and counter-terrorism.

Notes for Editors:

1. [London Assembly Police and Crime Committee](#).
2. As well as investigating issues that matter to Londoners, the London Assembly acts as a check and a balance on the Mayor.

For media enquiries, please contact [REDACTED]. For out of hours media enquiries, call 020 7983 4000 and ask for the London Assembly duty press officer. Non-media enquiries should be directed to the Public Liaison Unit on 020 7983 4100.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Communications Officer - Media**

Direct: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA
Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

london.gov.uk/assembly




Paul Robinson

From: Samantha Hart
Sent: 10 April 2018 11:01
To: Emma Strain
Subject: FW: Monitoring officer


fyi

Sam Hart
Head of Media
Mayor of London's Press Office


@LDN_PressOffice

From:  @ ]
Sent: 10 April 2018 10:59
To: Samantha Hart  @london.gov.uk>
Subject: Monitoring officer

Hi Sam,

Who is the GLA's monitoring officer? The  is intending to challenge the decision to make the PCC meeting private and not allow access to broadcasters.

Thanks





Paul Robinson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 April 2018 12:14
To: Emma Strain
Subject: PCC closed meeting - Urgent.

Importance: High

Dear Ms Strain,

I'm extremely concerned that the broadcasters and the press are being excluded from tomorrow's emergency PCC meeting with the Mayor about murders in London. I understand that you have taken that decision on the grounds that it could interfere with the upcoming local elections. I cannot understand that decision as the London Assembly and the Mayor are not up for election, Crime and Policing are Mayor level responsibilities, and like Parliament, there are no relevant restrictions on reporting on the Mayor, the GLA and the London Assembly just because we are in a local election period. On that basis we should not be reporting any activity by the Mayor or the Assembly until after polling day.

Clearly this is the most important issue currently facing London at the moment, which I'm sure is why the Committee have called the Mayor to appear before them. It seems imperative that the public are allowed to know what happens at that meeting.

I would be grateful if you would let me know by return if this decision is going to remain in force. I'm available on the phone on [REDACTED]

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ed Williams

From: Steve O'Connell
Sent: 10 April 2018 13:09
To: Ed Williams
Cc: Len Duvall; Gareth Bacon; Alison Bell; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Advice on PCC broadcast

Ok.

Accepted.

Steve

Cllr Steve O'Connell AM FRSA
London Assembly Member Croydon Sutton
Chair Assembly Police and Crime Committee
Kenley Councillor
Spokesman Safety and Communities
Trustee Crystal Palace FC Foundation
Chair Purley Kenley Caterham RSPCA

[REDACTED]
@SteveO_Connell

From: "Ed Williams" [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Date: Tuesday, 10 April 2018 at 13:07:01
To: "Steve O'Connell" [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Cc: "Len Duvall" [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, "Gareth Bacon" [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, "Alison Bell" [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, "Becky Short" [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Advice on PCC broadcast

Understood.

As discussed, there is the option of taking independent legal advice. However, even if we secured advice that said that the rules aren't being interpreted correctly, it is for the GLA statutory officers to make the final ruling – and, in effect, they have now made that decision, having taken advice of their own.

There may be scope for a discussion about all this, with the Mayor, Assembly and senior officers, down the line – but I'm afraid that we're pretty snookered for tomorrow's session now.

Ed

From: Steve O'Connell
Sent: 10 April 2018 12:43
To: Ed Williams [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Cc: Len Duvall [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; Gareth Bacon [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; Alison Bell [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; Becky Short [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Advice on PCC broadcast

I have to say that in terms of transparency for Londoners on this vital and of the moment issue I am disappointed. If I had any discretion I would be minded to exercise it.

Steve.

Cllr Steve O'Connell AM FRSA

London Assembly Member Croydon Sutton

Chair Assembly Police and Crime Committee

Kenley Councillor

Spokesman Safety and Communities

Trustee CPFC Foundation

Chair Purley Kenley RSPCA

[REDACTED]
@StevO_Connell

----- Original Message -----

From: Ed Williams [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>

Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 12:29

To: Steve O'Connell <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>

CC: Len Duvall <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, Gareth Bacon [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, Alison Bell [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, Becky Short [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk> [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Advice on PCC broadcast

Steve

I've just spoken with Emma Strain.

She is confirming the advice that both the Mayor's summit and tomorrow's PCC session should not be public meeting and should not be broadcast live, because of the pre-election rules.

She is going to put something in writing to Alison (and the Mayor's press team).

This means that there will be no change to practical arrangements for the PCC informal session tomorrow.

(But the BBC, LBC and others will not be happy. To say the least...)

Yours,
Ed

Paul Robinson

From: Alison Bell
Sent: 10 April 2018 17:21
To: Emma Strain
Subject: RE: Tomorrow urgent meeting

Sure.

Alison Bell | Communications Manager

Direct: [REDACTED]

LONDONASSEMBLY

City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA
Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

london.gov.uk/assembly
[Sign up to our monthly newsletter](#)

Follow us:



From: Emma Strain
Sent: 10 April 2018 17:19
To: Alison Bell [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Tomorrow urgent meeting

Hi,

Will you please go back to this one too. Thanks

Emma

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 April 2018 17:08
To: Emma Strain [REDACTED][@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>
Subject: Tomorrow urgent meeting

Dear Miss Strain,

I'm writing to raise concerns about the decision to restrict access to the London Assembly's urgent meeting tomorrow with the Mayor, Sadiq Khan.

I understand this has been justified on the grounds of purdah and the forthcoming elections.

We do not accept that this is a valid reason and believe the decision is be unprecedented.

We have seen the email from [REDACTED], and fully endorsed the concerns and points he has raised. We think the decision is irrational and needs to be reversed.

Reporting on this tomorrow is of highest importance to our audience given the current statistics on the murder rate in the capital.

I hope you'll take on board our concerns, and if you have any issues that you wish to raise please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Paul Robinson

From: Emma Strain
Sent: 10 April 2018 20:19
To: Jeff Jacobs
Subject: Re: PCC meeting - urgent.

There are more than just the AMs on the PCC attending. 11 labour, 3 Tories, 1 UKIP and Caroline P. That's what Ed advised quietly earlier.

Tom Copley, Leonie and Steve O'C who's the chair are all standing for election

E

Emma

From: Jeff Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 7:27:09 PM
To: Emma Strain
Subject: Re: PCC meeting - urgent.

Ta . Off the top of your head , do you know who and how many of the Committee are standing in local elections ? If not Ed will

J

Jeff Jacobs
Head of Paid Service

From: Emma Strain
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 6:12:04 PM
To: Jeff Jacobs
Subject: FW: PCC meeting - urgent.

Here you go.
Emma

From: Emma Strain [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Date: Tuesday, 10 April 2018 at 16:49
To: Alison Bell [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Cc: Ed Williams [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>, Samantha Hart [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: PCC meeting - urgent.

The GLA Monitoring Officer has reviewed your request with regard to tomorrow's meeting. The GLA's Use of Resources policy states that in the pre-election period the following conventions apply:

- 'Publicity will not deal with controversial issues or report views, proposals or recommendations in such a way that identifies them with individual politicians or their party groups. It is acceptable for the bodies / individual members to respond in appropriate circumstances to events and to legitimate service enquiries, provided that the replies are factual and not party political in tone or content (they should not seek to affect support, in any way, for parties or candidates).'
- 'No publicity (in any form) for those persons who are members of the relevant bodies and who are candidates or otherwise involved directly in the election shall be prepared or issued unless it is deemed that

the publicity is properly part of routine business and/or is necessary in order to discharge statutory requirements that are required to be undertaken at that point in time;'

There has been significant politically focused coverage of this issue in recent days. GLA members are also standing for election. As such, this meeting will not be held in public.

This does not prevent the Mayor or Assembly members from making media statements before or after the meeting, but the GLA's resources cannot be used to facilitate this.

From: Alison Bell
Sent: 10 April 2018 15:51
To: Emma Strain [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; Ed Williams [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: PCC meeting - urgent.
Importance: High

FYI – we really need to communicate with [REDACTED]

Shall I tell him that the decision will remain in force?

Alison Bell | Communications Manager
[REDACTED]

LONDONASSEMBLY

City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA
Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

london.gov.uk/assembly
[Sign up to our monthly newsletter](#)

Follow us:



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 April 2018 15:46
To: Alison Bell [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: PCC meeting - urgent.

Hi Alison,

I'm not getting any response from Emma Strain. Here's a copy of the original email I sent her. It would be good to get some indication of what is happening before we take any further action. I'm talking to other broadcasters as well.

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Strain,

I'm extremely concerned that the broadcasters and the press are being excluded from tomorrow's emergency PCC meeting with the Mayor about murders in London. I understand that you have taken that decision on the grounds that it could interfere with the upcoming local elections. I cannot understand that decision as the London Assembly

and the Mayor are not up for election, Crime and Policing are Mayor level responsibilities, and like Parliament, there are no relevant restrictions on reporting on the Mayor, the GLA and the London Assembly just because we are in a local election period. On that basis we should not be reporting any activity by the Mayor or the Assembly until after polling day.

Clearly this is the most important issue currently facing London at the moment, which I'm sure is why the Committee have called the Mayor to appear before them. It seems imperative that the public are allowed to know what happens at that meeting.

I would be grateful if you would let me know by return if this decision is going to remain in force. I'm available on the phone on [REDACTED]

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Paul Robinson

From: Alison Bell
Sent: 12 April 2018 11:04
To: Emma Strain
Subject: Fwd: Sadiq Khan in row as public barred from 'secret' knife crime meetings - Evening Standard
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

FYI

Alison Bell
External Communications Manager
London Assembly


Your message is important & deserves a quick response. However, I am on the move & not at my desk. Please forgive any brief, blunt & grammatically imperfect replies.

Begin forwarded message:

From: London Assembly News <LondonAssemblyNews@london.gov.uk>
Date: 12 April 2018 at 10:43:12 BST
Subject: Sadiq Khan in row as public barred from 'secret' knife crime meetings - Evening Standard

Evening Standard: *Sadiq Khan in row as public barred from 'secret' knife crime meetings* - Full story link:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/sadiq-khan-in-row-as-public-barred-from-secret-knife-crime-meetings-a3812096.html>

Sadiq Khan was today at the centre of row after two City Hall meetings about knife crime were held in “secret”.

Editors at BBC, Sky News and ITN made an unprecedented joint complaint to the Greater London Authority after press and public were barred from an emergency meeting of the London Assembly's police and crime committee yesterday.

It had been called to quiz the Mayor and Met chiefs on a surge in street violence which has seen more than 50 murders so far this year in the capital.

The Mayor's knife crime summit on Tuesday, with Met commissioner Cressida Dick and Home Secretary Amber Rudd, was also held in secret.

GLA officials claimed the meetings were subject to “purdah” restrictions on party-political publicity in the run-up to the May 3 town hall elections.

They have offered to release a video of yesterday's meeting after May 3.

The broadcasters said the decision to hold the meetings in private was “astonishing” given the public concern about violent crime.

Mr Khan is understood to have been personally in favour of allowing press and public access. A spokeswoman said he was “disappointed” at the ban.

The letter, from Michael MacFarlane of the BBC, Hannah Emerson-Thomas from ITN and Peter Lowe of Sky News, said: “We can think of no precedent whereby access is denied in this manner.

“Public access to a meeting of the [police committee], where the Mayor is being held to account on an important issue, is not ‘publicity’ but proper scrutiny.

“It is quite astonishing that you should come to the conclusion that such a meeting should be kept out of the public domain for more than three weeks.”

Jeff Jacobs, the GLA’s top official, said the rules meant “public forums” might have to be closed “to avoid breaching legal restrictions”.

He said the Mayor and politicians had been free to give media interviews after the meetings.

Best wishes

[Redacted]

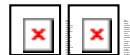
[Redacted] | **Communications Officer - Media**
[Redacted]



City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA
Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

london.gov.uk/assembly
[Sign up to our monthly newsletter](#)

Follow us:



Paul Robinson

From: Jeff Jacobs
Sent: 12 April 2018 13:38
To: Emma Strain
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Media on the press ban

E

[S40 Personal information]

I've spoken to Alison . We'll need a word about next steps but not this afternoon [REDACTED]

J

From: Alison Bell
Sent: 12 April 2018 11:13
To: Jeff Jacobs [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; Emma Strain [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Cc: Ed Williams [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: Media on the press ban

Press Gazette story link:

<http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/strict-election-publicity-rules-stop-press-reporting-london-mayoral-meetings-on-capitals-rising-murder-rate/>

I'm sure you've seen the Standard story:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/sadiq-khan-in-row-as-public-barred-from-secret-knife-crime-meetings-a3812096.html>

[REDACTED] have called wanting to know if they are going to receive a response to yesterday's second letter.

Any info appreciated.

Thanks,

Alison.

Alison Bell | External Communications Manager
[REDACTED]

LONDONASSEMBLY

City Hall | The Queen's Walk | London | SE1 2AA
Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

london.gov.uk/assembly
[Sign up to our monthly newsletter](#)

Follow us:



Paul Robinson

From: Jeff Jacobs
Sent: 17 April 2018 08:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Joint letter from [REDACTED] - Urgent

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in my role as Head of Paid Service at the GLA, and in collaboration with Emma Strain, the GLA Monitoring Officer to provide further explanation and clarity on the GLA's position with regard to the meeting held on 11 April.

GLA resources must not be used for political purposes. This is to ensure that the GLA maintains, and is seen to maintain, political neutrality at all times and in particular during the period of heightened sensitivity in the lead up to an election.

The Use of GLA Resources Guidance reflects this very important principle. However, questions about whether or not an intended use of GLA resources would be in conflict with the need to maintain political neutrality are considered, and it is quite right that they are considered, on a case by case basis on their own individual facts and circumstances. The Guidance does not, and is not intended to, cover every possible situation.

In relation to Wednesday's informal meeting, the GLA was of course mindful of the importance of openness and transparency in relation to a meeting arranged to discuss a topical issue of such public importance and the importance of proper scrutiny and accountability of public authorities in the exercise of their public functions at all times, even in an election period.

However, it was considered that, on balance, the holding of a formal meeting to which it was anticipated that the press and public would be present, at GLA expense, involving individuals some of whom were standing for election in the local government elections in order to discuss a quite clearly politically controversial issue in the lead up to a local government election, could have led to improper use of the GLA's resources.

Decisions of this nature often require very difficult questions of judgment but in this case, taking into account all of the particular facts and circumstances, we consider not holding a formal meeting was an appropriate course to take.

You have raised some specific questions relating to the Guidance. As I say above, the Guidance is not intended to cover every situation and has to be interpreted and applied at all times with the general principle of political neutrality in mind. That said, I deal with your specific points below.

You question whether allowing public and press admission to a Committee meeting amounts to "*publicity*" within the meaning of the Guidance. "Publicity" has a broad meaning in the Guidance and includes: "any communication in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a section of the public". We consider this definition is broad enough to capture the arrangement of a public meeting at GLA expense accessible by the press. Even if we are wrong on that, the principle of political neutrality applies to the use of all GLA resources, whether or not a public meeting is technically caught by the definition of "publicity" in the Guidance, and GLA resources were clearly being used in this case in relation to the holding of the meeting at City Hall.

You also point to reference in the Guidance to the need to close public forums and say that this is not relevant as it only applies to the period leading up to referendums. The paragraph you refer to is a quote from the section of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity which relates to "Care during periods of heightened sensitivity". Those provisions of the Code clearly apply to both elections and referendums (even if paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Code deal with referendums only). In any event, whether or not the GLA Guidance specifically refers to the possibility of a closed forum on the facts of this particular case, that is clearly a relevant factor to consider when looking at how to ensure, and be seen to ensure, political neutrality at all times.

Taking into account the above, we do not consider it appropriate to release a copy of the recording during the pre-election period, but will do so immediately following the election.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Jacobs
GLA Head of Paid Service

From: Jeff Jacobs
Sent: 16 April 2018 17:47
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Joint letter from [REDACTED] - Urgent

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further email of 13 April. I will let you have a reply as soon as possible

Yours sincerely

Jeff Jacobs

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2018 16:48
To: Jeff Jacobs [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Joint letter from [REDACTED] - Urgent

Dear Mr Jacobs,

We write further to our email of 11th April. We look forward to a response to our email on Monday which will include confirmation of the GLA's decision on whether to release the footage ahead of the local elections on 3 May. In the meantime, we are considering our options.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] e
Sent: 11 April 2018 14:38
To: Jeff Jacobs
Subject: RE: Joint letter from [REDACTED] - Urgent

Dear Mr Jacobs

We refer to your email dated 11 April 2018. We are writing to you jointly on behalf of the [REDACTED]

We note that you have stated that today's meeting is not a meeting of the Police and Crime Committee ("PCC"), but rather a meeting at which Assembly Members, including members of the PCC, can discuss with the Mayor "an important and topical issue". Irrespective of whether it is a PCC Meeting, it is clear that it is a meeting which would have typically been open to the public and press. This is clear from the fact that you intend to broadcast the meeting after the 3 May 2018 elections.

The sole basis upon which you have refused public and press access is that you consider that the rules pertaining to the pre-election period prohibit this. We do not accept that. The applicable guidance, "The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity" ("the Code"), does not contain any prohibition on Committee meetings (formal or informal) being held in public during the pre-election period. You have failed to identify any precedent whereby access has been denied in this manner. At §33 of the Code there is a suggestion that it may be necessary to close public forums to avoid breaching any legal restrictions, but the relevant legal restrictions (at §§7-9) concern referendums, and therefore do not apply. At §34, there is a prohibition on "publicity", and particularly "publicity" relating to individuals involved directly in the election. Allowing public and press admission to a Committee meeting does not, on any view, constitute "publicity", and is certainly not publicity which relates to individuals involved directly in the 3 May 2018 election. The GLA is not proposing to publish or report on anything: this is about proper scrutiny and accountability, which is not prohibited under the Code. As you are aware, public bodies must continue to discharge their core functions at all time, regardless of whether an election is coming up.

In these circumstances, we ask you to reconsider your decision to refuse public and press admission to today's meeting. We would be grateful for a response as a matter of urgency.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: Jeff Jacobs [mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk]
Sent: 11 April 2018 09:57
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Joint letter from [REDACTED] - Urgent

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email last night.

The meeting today is not a meeting of the PCC. It has been arranged in order for the Assembly Members, both PCC members and other Assembly Members, to have a discussion with the Mayor about an important and topical issue. The meeting today is an informal one and a decision was taken to advise via press release that it is happening in order to demonstrate that the matter was being considered with the highest importance.

The rules in the pre-election period as set out in the GLA's Use of Resources Guidance are a mirror of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity March 2011 issued under section 4 of the Local Government Act 1986. This Code applies to all local authorities in England specified in section 6 of the Local Government Act 1986 and to other authorities in England which have that provision applied to them by other legislation. The GLA is deemed to be subject to the same legal rules that control local government publicity, including a statutory Code on Local Government Publicity. I should also note that these rules do not apply to central Government.

Both the Local Authority Publicity Code and GLA Use of Resources Guidance make clear provision for pre-election periods:

“33. Local authorities should pay particular regard to the legislation governing publicity during the period of heightened sensitivity before elections and referendums It may be necessary to suspend the hosting of material produced by third parties, or to close public forums during this period to avoid breaching any legal restrictions.

34. During the period between the notice of an election and the election itself, local authorities should not publish any publicity on controversial issues or report views or proposals in such a way that identifies them with any individual members or groups of members. Publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published by local authorities during this period unless expressly authorised by or under statute. It is permissible for local authorities to publish factual information which identifies the names, wards and parties of candidates at elections.”

While discussions will be conducted in private, individuals who are not politically restricted (like the Mayor and Assembly members) are free to give interviews to the media. As you are aware the Mayor spoke to LBC, BBC radio London, BBCLDN TV, Bauer radio, Sky, the Evening Standard and London Live TV yesterday. I am also aware that a number of other individuals gave statements including Amber Rudd, Justine Greening, Jo Johnson, Teresa Villiers, Sian Berry, and Ravi Govinda.

While this may not be the preferred approach for you, there is clearly access for the media to key individuals and this kind of engagement is consistent with the rules under which the GLA is governed.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Jacobs
GLA Head of Paid Service

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 April 2018 20:29
To: Jeff Jacobs [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk)>
Subject: Joint letter from [REDACTED] - Urgent

Mr Jeff Jacobs
Chief Officer of the GLA

Dear Mr Jacobs

We are writing to you jointly on behalf of the [REDACTED] to express our concern over the decision to deny the press access to the PCC committee meeting tomorrow and to delay releasing the recording of proceedings until after the local elections on May 3rd. We can think of no precedent whereby access is denied in this manner; there are no GLA elections and those members of the Assembly who also happen to be candidates in the borough elections still hold their responsibilities as elected members during the election period. Public access to a meeting of the PCC, where the Mayor is being held to account on an important issue is not “publicity” but proper scrutiny. It is quite astonishing that you should come to the conclusion that such a meeting should be kept out of the public domain for more than three weeks.

Our understanding is that the only limitation in this regard would be that GLA press officers should not assist candidates in arranging interviews with the media. There is absolutely nothing in any relevant guidance which suggests an elected body should not be fully accessible to the public, through the broadcasters and press, during an election period. Indeed, if that were the case, the same restriction – presumably - would apply to the House of Commons.

Given the pressing nature of events we would be grateful for a swift reply, before we decide what further options are open to us ensuring that there is a proper – and prompt – opportunity for appropriate public scrutiny of proceedings of the London Assembly.

Best wishes

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.