

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

(By email)

Our reference: MGLA250722-5769

Date: 1 September 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 22 July 2022. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

Can you release correspondence between Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Prime Minister (& former Mayor) Boris Johnson please?

Date range for the requested correspondence starts from 24 July 2019 to present day.

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

Please note that some of the information within the scope of your request is exempt from disclosure under s.40 (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act. This relates to communications received on behalf of constituents and therefore could potentially identify members of the public. This constitutes as personal data which is defined by Article 4(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. It is considered that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA250722-5769.

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

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 24 JUL 2019

Dear Boris,

Many congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. No doubt we will have political disagreements over the years ahead, but I very much hope that we can work closely together in the best interest of all Londoners, as I was able to do with your predecessors.

As a former Mayor of London, you have a unique understanding of the challenges facing our city. You backed continued investment in key infrastructure projects including Crossrail and Crossrail 2. Since you left City Hall the need for additional funding for London's public services – the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London and London's local authorities – has only become more urgent and I want to work with you to ensure they receive the additional funding they so desperately need to put them on a sustainable path for the future.

You were also a vocal backer of the compelling case, as set out in the London Finance Commission Reports, for London and other regions to be given far greater control over the services we deliver and control over the money raised in the capital. I hope we can therefore make urgent progress with No.10 and the Treasury on delivering a new devolution settlement that will give London government and other regions of England more control over the services we deliver and decisions on future investments. This is an issue where I and my fellow Mayors from across England are united, and we will be writing to you imminently on this issue.

Our shared experience of City Hall and support for these policy positions presents a unique opportunity for us to make significant progress towards making London a more prosperous and fairer city. It is vital that the Government work with me and London government to support the capital's growth and economic success, as this will benefit the UK as a whole.

I am very concerned however that the future prosperity of London and this country is at severe risk from Brexit and especially from a catastrophic no-deal Brexit. I urge you to reconsider what is in the best interests of our country, revoke Article 50 and let the public have the final say on Brexit.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I would welcome an early meeting with you to discuss how, working with Government, we can address the key issues facing the capital and I will write to you in more detail when that is arranged setting out the issues I wish to raise.

Congratulations again on becoming Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

25 July 2019

Dear Prime Minister

M9: DRIVING PROSPERITY THROUGH DEVOLUTION

On behalf of the M9 Group of Mayoral Authorities, we would like to congratulate you on your new position.

The M9 group has chosen to work together, across political and geographical boundaries, to help deliver on the opportunity devolution brings to each of our regions – strengthening the country's economy and infrastructure and improving outcomes for residents across the areas we represent.

Collectively, the M9 represents over 43% of England's population and has a combined GVA of over £700billion (45% of England's GVA). However, behind these statistics is a wealth of regional variance, opportunities and challenges. As a group, our responsibilities vary but we are united in our focus on driving economic growth, increasing productivity, and improving outcomes for the people, businesses and places that we represent.

As you will appreciate from your time as Mayor of London, devolution allows us to capitalise on the strength of our places: investing in ways that deliver against regional and national priorities; integrating regional partners, budgets, and services to deliver coherent regional strategies; and addressing regional and national barriers that are holding our places back. This has allowed us to deliver public service reform and improvement, resulting in savings to the Exchequer.

We want to build on the foundations that have been put in place over recent years, working with Government to take advantage of the opportunity devolution presents for our country. We see Government as a partner in devolution. Successful implementation of the reforms we are championing for our places is not because national Government has been removed from the equation. Success is based on strong collaboration between our regions, Whitehall and Westminster. We are keen to see this collaboration strengthened further under your administration. This is the sort of radical devolution that you argued for as Mayor of London and is now needed to unleash the power and prosperity of the English cities and regions.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY

GMCA

GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY
ANDY BURNHAM
MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER



LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION
COMBINED AUTHORITY

MAYOR OF LONDON

**NORTH
OF TYNE
COMBINED
AUTHORITY**

MAYOR DAN JARVIS
SHEFFIELD CITY REGION



TEES VALLEY
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

TEES VALLEY MAYOR



West Midlands
Combined Authority

**WEST OF
ENGLAND**
Combined Authority

The Spending Review will provide a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the important role devolution can play in addressing the challenges and opportunities our country will face over the coming years. We intend to provide a joint submission to the Spending Review process, setting out evidence of the impact devolution has had to date and highlighting challenges that are holding us back, including the impact that misalignment of responsibilities, accountability and funding arrangements can have. We intend to make a set of joint proposals on how we can work together, with your Government, to deliver prosperity in each of our regions. We will be making the case for a flexible funding settlement to further enable the integration of services, alignment of budgets, and strengthening of regional partnerships that devolution makes possible. We have already started this discussion with officials.

Collectively, we are focused on ensuring we have the right levers in place to deliver on our ambition for: integrated regional transport models; place-based skills, education and employability provision which improves life chances for our residents, meets the needs of our business base and supports our collective ambitions for private sector growth; and infrastructure that effectively links our people, businesses and places. Together, we are also focused on ensuring our regions have the capacity, capability and links with central Government to deliver on our collective ambition. We look forward to discussing these issues in greater detail through the Spending Review process.

You were a strong advocate of devolution in your time as Mayor and will know that more can be achieved if we work together to realise the vast opportunities devolution presents. As the country enters a new economic landscape, we can work together to deliver better outcomes for people, places and business.

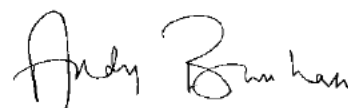
We would welcome the opportunity to revitalise the conversation on devolution with you and taking forward the recommendations within Lord Heseltine's 'Empowering English Cities' report as a priority. We welcome the suggestion to establish a regular meeting with the PM and Chancellor of Exchequer to further foster a strategic, cross-government view on issues affecting the regions.

Our country is a strong nation, built on the strength of our regions and the diverse talents of the places we represent. As you set out your agenda for the country, we would welcome discussion on the opportunities strong regional leadership and decision making can play in delivering a prosperous future.

Yours sincerely



Tim Bowles
Mayor of the West of England



Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester



MAYOR DAN JARVIS
SHEFFIELD CITY REGION

GMCA

GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

ANDY BURNHAM
MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER



TEES VALLEY MAYOR



MAYOR OF LONDON

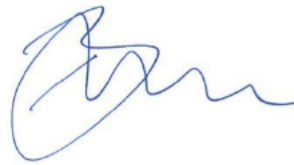


NORTH
OF TYNE
COMBINED
AUTHORITY





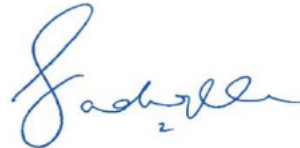
Jamie Driscoll
Mayor of North of Tyne



Ben Houchen
Mayor of Tees Valley



Dan Jarvis
Mayor of Sheffield City Region



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



James Palmer
Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough



Steve Rotherham
Mayor of Liverpool City Region



Andy Street
Mayor of the West Midlands



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ANDY BURNHAM
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MANCHESTER



MAYOR OF LONDON

**NORTH
OF TYNE
COMBINED
AUTHORITY**

MAYOR **DAN JARVIS**
SHEFFIELD CITY REGION



TEES VALLEY MAYOR



**WEST OF
ENGLAND**
Combined Authority

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 11 OCT 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

Ahead of The Queen's Speech on 14 October, it is vital that the Government delivers a legislative programme that safeguards the best interests of all Londoners – from investing in our young people to improving the air we breathe and properly funding the public services we rely on.

The EU provides crucial environmental protections that we risk losing if, as is looking likely, we crash out of the EU. The forthcoming Environment Bill is therefore critical to establishing the UK as the global leader on environmental protection. However, the draft bill must be strengthened to include WHO-recommended air quality limits enforced by a robust independent statutory body. I have taken strong action to improve air quality by introducing the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London, but further progress can only be made with the necessary powers from government. This includes a new Clean Air Act to entrench citizens' rights to breathe clean air, stronger incentives to switch to cleaner vehicles and new powers to tackle non-transport sources of pollution. It is also vital that my existing powers, including on Local Air Quality Management, are not weakened in any new legislation.

I am pleased the Domestic Abuse Bill will be carried over to the next session. This is a unique opportunity to fundamentally transform our response to tackling domestic abuse and I look forward to working with government and parliamentarians to deliver this groundbreaking legislation. I also look forward to seeing further detail on how you will deliver your commitments to tackle the social care crisis and publish the long-delayed adult social care green paper.

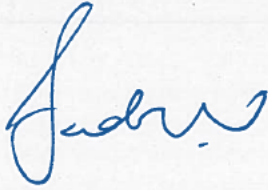
I welcome the recently announced devolution white paper. As you well know, problems such as inequality, skills, pollution, transport and housing are much better understood at a local level. Cities and regions should have greater responsibility, flexibility, powers and resources for solving these problems, with stronger accountability much closer to the electorate. I hope you will commit to working with me and the other metro mayors to deliver an ambitious new devolution settlement that gives London and other England regions more control over the money we raise and services we deliver.

As former Mayor of London, you will understand that rebalancing the UK economy cannot be achieved by constraining London's growth, but rather by increasing productivity and competitiveness across all regions. I enclose a copy of my recent report on *London and the UK* which sets out the economic case for how a successful London means success for the UK as a whole. I urge you to ensure that legislation announced next week has a positive impact on London and the people who live and work here, as I am deeply concerned by the anti-London bias that currently exists across government.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I would also like to reiterate my request, in my letter to you of 24 July, for a meeting to discuss the challenges facing London and how City Hall can work with government to address them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 18 DEC 2019

Dear Boris,

Congratulations on your general election victory and on your reappointment as Prime Minister. In a matter of weeks this decade draws to a close and, as we enter 2020, I hope that, despite our political differences, we can work together to improve the lives of all Londoners.

Tomorrow's Queen's Speech, and your first Budget, are opportunities for you to properly fund the public services Londoners rely on, including the NHS and schools; invest in our young people; build the houses and vital transport infrastructure we need to keep the city moving; improve the filthy air we breathe; and, as a shared priority, keep Londoners safe.

I hope to hear more about how many of the additional 20,000 police officers that you announced will be recruited into the Metropolitan Police Service and of measures to adopt a public health approach to tackling violent crime, such as I am doing in London. Of the Bills mentioned in your manifesto, the Domestic Abuse Bill presents a unique opportunity to fundamentally transform our response to tackling domestic abuse. I look forward to working with you, the Home Secretary and parliamentarians to deliver this ground-breaking legislation. I also welcome the Police Protection Bill and will study the Sentencing Bill when published.

The Environment Bill, that I hope is brought back in the Queen's Speech, is critical if we are to ensure we remain a global leader on the environment after we leave the EU. There is no doubt about the scale of the environmental challenge from climate change and meeting net zero by 2050 is one of the foremost tasks the Government faces. I have set out a clear plan for the capital to meet the target and stand ready to work with you to achieve this.

As Mayor, you recognised the need for government investment in infrastructure and I welcome your commitment to better infrastructure as Prime Minister. Nationally significant transport schemes – including Crossrail 2, upgrades to Piccadilly line signalling and the Bakerloo line extension – will unlock thousands of much-needed homes and ensure London's capacity as a nationally and globally significant transport hub, and its continued growth, is not at risk. I urge you to commit to these schemes, just as you did when at City Hall.

It should not be overlooked that London faces other major challenges that need investment and decisive policy intervention. The distribution of wealth and income in London is more unequal than anywhere else in the UK. Median household incomes are no higher than in the rest of the UK, once housing costs are taken into account, and no other UK region has more households and more children living in relative poverty. As you well know, rebalancing the UK economy cannot be achieved by constraining London's growth, but rather by increasing productivity and competitiveness across all our regions. A successful London means success for the UK as a whole.

MAYOR OF LONDON

While we disagreed over Brexit, it is in all our interests for London to remain open to talent and trade after we leave the EU. The economic benefits to the UK of London's status as a global city are not assured. As we compete with other global capital cities and the rising powerhouse cities in the Far East and South America, London will still require government investment and decisive policy intervention if we are not to fall behind our rivals. If we did, this would have a significant impact on the success of the UK's economy. Part of the solution is freeing up cities to take more responsibility over policy and investment decisions – a policy you also pursued whilst London's Mayor.

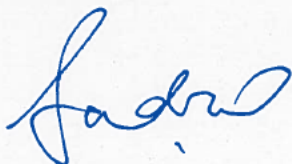
Therefore, I welcome your manifesto commitment to publishing an English Devolution White Paper and hope you will be able to provide more details on Thursday as to the timetable and scope of the paper. Problems such as inequality, skills, pollution, transport and housing are much better understood at a local level. Despite your commitment to levelling up the country, devolution in London should not be viewed as a job done – there is still much more that could be better done at a local level. Along, with my fellow English Mayors, we will continue to work closely in support of a new devolution settlement that benefits London and the whole of England.

Finally, City Hall will constructively engage with your Government on other relevant legislation that is announced tomorrow, and I am writing to members of your Cabinet setting out how we can work together in London's interest and that of the UK as a whole. I would also like to reiterate my offer of a meeting early in the new year to discuss how working with you and your Government we can address many of the challenges facing this city.

I look forward to hearing from you and once again many congratulations on your election.

I wish you a happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
Email: [REDACTED]

23 December 2019

Dear Prime Minister

M9: STRENGTHENING OUR PLACES

Congratulations on your return to office.

Thank you for your letter prior to the election and your recognition of the central role Metro Mayors, Mayoral Combined Authorities and the Mayor of London will play in driving productivity and unlocking economic potential across our regions and for our country.

As you know, we welcome the commitment you have made to strengthening places across England, improving connectivity, supporting diverse cultures, improving quality of life and most of all, enabling regions, towns and cities to become more self-governing – places with power and a sense of responsibility and accountability.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you collectively to discuss the progress we can make in strengthening the places we represent, ensuring our authorities have the responsibilities and resources we need to drive economic growth and improved outcomes for our places and surrounding areas. The commitment to an English Devolution White Paper is a positive step. Since this was announced, we have been working together on what this might look like and would welcome the opportunity to discuss.

Working together with you, we can ensure additional investment in infrastructure, the National Skills Fund, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Housing Infrastructure Fund, the development of clean energy, R&D, and much more is implemented in ways that align with existing regional plans. As you know from your time as Mayor of London, with greater capacity to integrate budgets and deliver in ways that respond to the specific strengths and challenges of our regions, we have a real opportunity to make a step change in the way our regions, you and your Government work together for the benefit of our country.

Together, the M9 group represents over 40% of the population in England. Each of the places we represent has unique strengths and talents that we must harness to strengthen our nation. We look forward to working productively with you to deliver a prosperous future.

Yours sincerely.



Tim Bowles
Mayor of the West of England



Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester



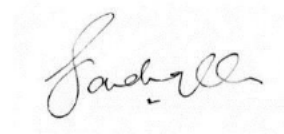
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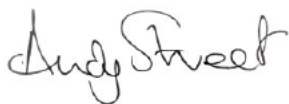
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Steve Rotherham
Mayor of Liverpool City Region



Andy Street
Mayor of the West Midlands

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 23 JAN 2020

Dear Boris,

I am writing to you in regards to your selection of Benita Mehra as a panel member for the Grenfell Inquiry.

I have always said that the families and friends of the Grenfell victims, and the survivors of the fire, must have absolute confidence in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

The appointment of Benita Mehra is another major blow for the survivors, the bereaved and the wider community and epitomises the careless approach this government continues to take in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Last night I met with Grenfell United, who have rightly raised a number of concerns with you about the selection of Ms Mehra as a panel member. I note that your letter of 20 December 2019 to the Chair of the Inquiry stated that Ms Mehra had "confirmed that she is not aware of any conflict of interest" and that Cabinet Office officials had also "undertaken due diligence which has not identified any concerns". It is extremely worrying that information regarding Ms Mehra's links to Arconic, the company which made the aluminium composite cladding panels used on Grenfell Tower, only came to light following investigations by members of Grenfell United.

I have been informed that during a meeting with the Grenfell community on 16 January you committed to looking into these concerns, and if they were found to be accurate, your view was that she could not carry on in her position. I understand that Grenfell United have written to you reiterating these concerns and proposing a potential way forward whereby Ms Mehra is stood down now, and an appropriate replacement secured by the start of module three.

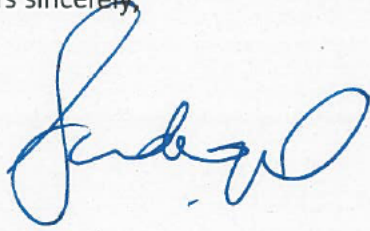
It took the Government a year to appoint two new panel members and to finally respond to the community campaigners' ask for a more representative panel. I have no doubt that were Ms Mehra to remain in position, this would lead to a loss of faith in the process from a number of bereaved families, survivors and residents, with a significant impact on the ability of the Inquiry to serve the purposes it was established for.

It is imperative that you address these concerns before the second stage of the Inquiry begins on Monday 27 January. We owe it to the 72 people who tragically lost their lives at Grenfell Tower, their families, friends and the North Kensington community to ensure that the justice they seek is delivered.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I would be grateful for an urgent response clarifying your position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date:

29 JAN 2020

Dear Boris,

I am writing to you following Benita Mehra's decision to step down as panel member for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. While I welcome this, I am concerned by the silence from the Cabinet Office since her resignation over the weekend.

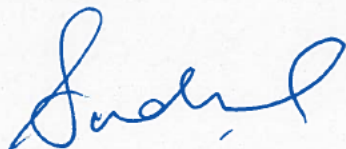
With Phase 2 of the Inquiry having started this week, it is essential for the Bereaved, Survivors and Residents and other Core Participants to receive an update on next steps. Panel members are not an optional extra; their full involvement is essential in order that the Inquiry can benefit from their knowledge and life experience, which it might otherwise lack.

I therefore request an urgent update from you on the proposals for appointing a replacement and the time frame for this, in order that the implications for the Inquiry and participants can be considered.

The Bereaved, Survivors and Residents' desire for a more representative panel has been a long time coming – it is now over two and a half years since Sir Martin Moore-Bick was appointed – and it is vital that a suitable replacement is announced as soon as possible.

I would be grateful for an urgent response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 05 FEB 2020

Dear Boris,

I am saddened to write to you in the aftermath of the second terror attack in a matter of months – both of which I consider to have been both foreseeable and preventable. If it had not been for the swift and courageous response of the police and ambulance service on Sunday, we could have been dealing with a more tragic incident.

Both attacks were by individuals already convicted of terror offences and who, on their release, have clearly still been a deadly threat to society. In November 2019, after the senseless murders of two inspiring and promising young people, Jack Merritt and Saskia Jones, the Government promised that it would learn lessons and make the necessary changes to keep the public safe. Sunday's incident in Streatham shows that the lessons have not been learnt, and Londoners safety continues to be at risk as a result.

Frankly, London's amazing but overstretched police have a big enough job to do keeping the city safe without dangerous terrorists being released on to our streets. That is why I am seeking urgent assurances on how you propose to ensure that any forthcoming releases of convicted terrorists are being assessed with heightened rigour. I note the announcement by the Lord Chancellor on Monday 3 February concerning the early release of terrorists, but on its own this is not enough. Without solving the wider problems in the criminal justice system, the issue is merely being kicked down the line.

First of all, judges need the necessary tools to give the appropriate sentences that keep the public safe. When I was in Parliament, as Shadow Lord Chancellor, I fiercely opposed the abolition of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) indeterminate sentences for the most serious and dangerous offenders and I warned that public safety would be put at risk as a result. I am calling on the Government to restore to judges an option that allows the most serious and dangerous criminals to be released only when they are no longer a risk to the public.

But I recognise that sentencing alone is not going to solve the problem, and you as Prime Minister have a duty to be honest to the public that a decade of austerity, and badly conceived and implemented reforms, has left courts, prisons, probation and parole in tatters, making our country less safe. The Government must urgently provide the resources our underfunded and overstretched criminal justice system desperately needs. It is little wonder that the courses and programmes necessary to rehabilitate criminals and deradicalise terrorists are not proving effective in such violent and overcrowded prisons, where hate preachers are able with ease to spread their poisonous views to other inmates. It is also the case that the privatisation of the probation service, which the Government themselves now admit was a disaster for public safety, has seen offenders released from prison unreformed and left to walk the streets unsupervised.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I would also like two further assurances from you. First, that London's local authorities are given the information they need to consider the local impact of released Terrorism Act offenders or those who are thought to have been radicalised in prison. And second that there are adequate measures in place to deal with those who may return to this country from foreign conflict zones who may also intend to cause us harm.

Whilst it was not the main focus of its work, my recent Countering Violent Extremism Programme found that radicalisation in prisons remained a key concern. It recommended that the Government should commission further research to understand the prevalence of extremism within prisons alongside evaluation of those measures currently deployed to stop extremist ideologies being promoted. I am asking that such a review will now take place alongside vital evaluation of current disengagement, desistance and de-radicalisation work.

I would make one final point, and that is around the role of communities in stopping the spread of extremism of all kinds. It is worrying that in society we are seeing a rise in extremism which can, on occasions, become violent. I would urge you to invest much more focus and resource in to work to tackle the conditions that lead to the rise of extremism.

I hope you will respond quickly and decisively to the points raised in my letter.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary
Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP, Secretary of State for Justice
Chris Philp MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 18 FEB 2020

Dear Boris,

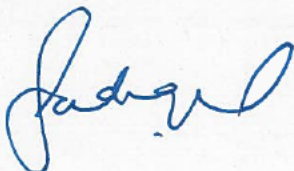
Like so many Londoners, I am heartbroken that we are no longer a member of the European Union, but that doesn't mean our country's future can't be in close collaboration with Europe. I am urging you to take steps to agree a form of "Associate Citizenship" of the EU that would act as an olive branch to the millions of Londoners and British nationals who are devastated they are losing their rights as EU citizens. Associate Citizenship would give those British nationals who wanted it a way to keep many of the same rights they have enjoyed up until now as EU citizens including, most importantly, the right to move and work freely between different EU member states.

The UK and EU Withdrawal Agreement already has provisions to protect the rights of British nationals who were living and working in EU member states before Brexit, or who have recently started to during the transition period. In the case of British nationals born in Northern Ireland, they will be able to secure EU citizenship through their established right to become a citizen of the Republic of Ireland. However, millions of other British nationals who never wanted or voted for Brexit have lost the rights they enjoyed as EU citizens. In the next phase of negotiations I want the UK Government to agree a way forward with the EU so that British citizens who want to retain their links with the EU can keep their rights, and these are protected by the required legislation.

This week, I am travelling to Brussels to call on senior EU politicians to work with the UK Government so that a form of Associate Citizenship can be offered. As the end of the transition period draws closer, this major loss of rights will be felt keenly by those who, during freedom of movement, built close friendships and relationships with Europeans, and shared a sense of belonging to Europe.

You have rightly pledged as Prime Minister to bring the country together and to move us forward. I cannot think of a better way to reconcile the differences between British voters who wanted to leave, and the millions of Londoners and British nationals who still feel and want to be European.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 17 MAR 2020

Dear Boris,

It was useful to attend the COBR meeting yesterday and to be briefed on the latest action the Government is taking. It is absolutely right that the immediate priority is managing the health impacts of COVID-19. I would now expect the Mayor of London to be at all future COBR meetings, in light of the impact on our capital city and the disproportionate impact on London.

However, yesterday evening I convened a meeting of leaders from the business community and it was clear from what they said to me that much more rapid and ambitious action is required to support the economy. The action taken over the last week is welcome, including the measures set out in the Budget and the steps taken by the Bank of England, but without further immediate action in the coming days, we risk widespread job losses and business failures. Businesses of every size and from every sector are at risk as a result of this crisis.

Based on what businesses have said to me, I believe the next steps must include the following:

- A sub-group of COBR is convened urgently to coordinate cross government action to support business and the economy. Businesses told me that they are concerned that action across government is inconsistent and opportunities are being missed to act quickly. There needs to be a single Cabinet Minister responsible for dealing with the economic impacts of this crisis, and a single point of contact for business in Whitehall, rather than multiple points of engagement across many government departments. There needs to be a single portal that brings together advice for business, not just on the health aspects, but also on the legal, HR, insurance and banking implications of this crisis.
- Action is taken now to prevent widescale job losses and to keep people in work so they can support their families and maintain a decent quality of life. This will also be vital so businesses can recover quickly when the current crisis recedes. We can learn from international experience of support schemes to provide aid to businesses to help with payroll bills and to support workers who have to move to part or short time working. We need further extensions in support for statutory sick pay and benefits to ensure those who are unable to work, including the self-employed and freelancers, are able meet their living costs. Those working in the gig economy will also need special support from the Government.

MAYOR OF LONDON

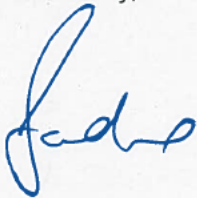
- Further action is needed to help businesses with their cashflow, particularly with many quarterly rent payments due next week. The Government needs to provide greater levels of assistance to businesses, large and small, which are facing financial difficulty. They need further help now, both through the tax system and in the form of cash grants. Later this week, councils will implement Direct Debit mandates for April business rate payments, so immediate action is needed if these are to be delayed to help with cashflow.
- The advice to avoid crowded places, such as pubs, clubs and theatres has left these businesses in limbo. Where insurance is in place to protect against loss of income, businesses are unable to claim on it, yet their doors are all but shut. The Government needs to make support available to cover the lost revenue as result of this advice.

London and the country are facing extraordinary challenges as a result of COVID-19. The Government needs to go much further in providing urgent aid and support to meet businesses critical needs if employers are to overcome that challenge. There must be a guarantee from the Government that no businesses, regardless of their size, will be allowed to fail.

I cannot stress enough the urgency of the need for these measures. There is no time to waste. We are facing not just a public health crisis but an economic one, and if the Government fails to act immediately, I fear thousands of businesses, and hundreds of thousands of jobs and livelihoods, may be lost, with severe and long-lasting social, economic and fiscal consequences.

If my officials and I can provide any further information, or help the Government's efforts in any way, please let me know immediately.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 22 March 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you privately, and in confidence.

As you will be aware, since the COVID-19 emergency began, my team at City Hall has worked closely as best as we can with officials across government. Despite representations, Monday was the first time I was allowed to attend the Cobra meeting. We have used our extensive social media channels and the TfL estate to amplify public health messaging. We have maintained seamless, joined-up messaging to the public across City Hall and government.

Given the scale of the crisis we face, I have put party politics to one side as I hope you and others in your government have also sought to do. I have used my media appearances to reinforce official government advice at every turn. This has been particularly important over recent days as the advice to the public changed to one of increased social distancing. I also declined to publicly comment when asked to do so on briefings to the media last week regarding London's lockdown, despite how damaging these mixed messages were to a confused public.

However, I feel I must again express to you in the strongest terms possible my serious concerns that the current approach, and the messaging to the public, is failing. As a result, the lives of thousands of people are being endangered.

I am hearing time and again that Londoners feel the messaging is either unclear, or they are simply choosing to ignore it. This weekend has demonstrated how government advice is not being heeded – local shopping areas were busy, many people were out and about, and too many were still using public transport. London needs specific public health messaging that acknowledges the COVID-19 situation in London is a few weeks ahead of the rest of the country and the unique nature of our major metropolitan area.

There needs to be an immediate strengthening of the public health messaging to London. Advice is being seen as something that can be ignored. I do not use the phrase lockdown lightly, but I believe Londoners must be told to stay home unless they are an essential worker, are buying food or collecting medication from pharmacists. Alongside this, there must be clear reassurances about the supply of food to avoid further stockpiling and panic buying.

The consequences of not acting now are unimaginable. Thousands more people will die as a result. Our NHS will be overwhelmed. We only have to look to Italy at the horrors that could lie ahead for London if we do not change course. That is why I urge you to act urgently, and in a clear and decisive manner.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I assure you that with any strengthening of the message to Londoners or its enforcement, I will support you completely.

But, alternatively, if you insist on continuing with the same course, I will be left with no choice but to speak directly to Londoners with a tougher message if it means thousands of people's lives could be saved.

I need to hear back from you on this as a matter of urgency this evening. I do not believe this matter can wait any longer. We must speak to Londoners immediately.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

cc. Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
Email: [REDACTED]

25 March 2020

Dear Prime Minister

The M9 group of Metro Mayors would like to offer the Government our support at this time of unprecedented challenge. We are uniquely placed to provide insight and intelligence in ensuring the response is targeted as effectively as possible. Our understanding of the challenges facing businesses and families in our regions allows us to both provide coordination of support but also to feed back on the effectiveness of interventions.

Businesses need help quickly. We welcome the package of measures announced over the past week, but further steps are needed to meet the immediate needs of all our regional businesses (including the self-employed), some of whom are already laying off staff. We urge you to consider increasing the speed with which support can be accessed and we are in touch with officials with proposals about how that could be achieved. We will continue to work with businesses, local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to make the best use of these existing measures and help target scarce resource at businesses most in need; in parallel, with your support, we will develop and implement additional medium-term measures to help drive the recovery and rebuild our regional economies.

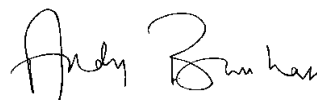
In order to ensure our perspective of the reality of the challenges businesses and families are facing is reflected in decision making we encourage you to consider including a representative of the M9 group on the committees that are making the decisions on what support is needed and how it will be delivered. As a first step, we suggest a representative of the M9 group on the Chancellor's Economy and Business Committee, ensuring that the reality of the situation in the regions is reflected in these crucial discussions.

In parallel to this, regular discussions between this group and Cabinet Ministers would ensure we are able to feed in to the development of solutions in a timely manner. We are copying this letter to the Secretaries of State for MHCLG and BEIS to put this arrangement in place.

Yours sincerely



Tim Bowles
Mayor of the West of England



Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester



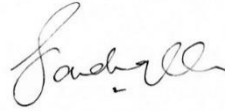
Jamie Driscoll
Mayor of North of Tyne



Ben Houchen
Mayor of Tees Valley



Dan Jarvis
Mayor of Sheffield City Region



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



James Palmer
Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough



Steve Rotherham
Mayor of Liverpool City Region



Andy Street
Mayor of the West Midlands

Cc: The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 30 March 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

It is by coming together – as a country and a society – that we will best tackle the unprecedented challenge posed by COVID-19. The measures you have already put in place to support employers, workers and the self-employed will help many people through this crisis.

However, it is clear that more support is needed for those who are the most vulnerable to the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, in particular those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and those on low incomes. That's why I am writing to make two specific asks that would ensure these groups do not fall through the net of provision we are all working to create and strengthen.

Across London, there are tens of thousands of residents with NRPF, including delivery drivers, cleaners and NHS staff. Sadly, as a result of this unprecedented crisis, we have already seen many lose their jobs.

Londoners with NRPF are at real risk of homelessness, have no way to access Universal Credit support when they lose their income, and their children are not eligible for support through free school meals. I am also particularly concerned about survivors of domestic violence with NRPF who will face additional challenges to fleeing abuse and seeking out support during this time. They are unable to access the welfare safety net they need, despite paying into the system through taxes. These are people who have lived in the UK for many years, often with children born and brought up here.

Whilst local authorities have received welcome additional support to deal with COVID-19, they are having to respond to a significant increase in demand for urgent help to avoid people going into destitution, which they simply do not have the capacity to accommodate or address.

The process for applying for removal of a NRPF condition can take up to six months. This has not been amended despite the national emergency we now face. I am therefore asking you to suspend the condition of NRPF. More than 30 human rights organisations, including Liberty and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, have called for this. Doing so would not only enable people to get the support they need, but, crucially, would help to stop the spread of COVID-19 by those still who feel they have no choice but to go out to work.

MAYOR OF LONDON

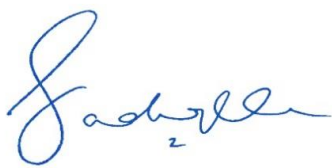
Secondly, given the impact of COVID-19, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Londoners claiming Universal Credit to support them through this crisis. Many people desperately need access to immediate financial help. Advance payments are available for new Universal Credit claimants, but too often the most vulnerable people in our society are being pushed into debt. In this moment of national crisis, I am therefore asking you to remove the five-week wait for support by introducing an automatic, non-repayable advance payment from day one.

It is vital that the Universal Credit system works for all. I welcome the reallocation of 10,000 Department for Work and Pensions staff to support new claims, but given the level of demand, more support is needed. So, I urge you to do everything necessary to ensure that those seeking support do not suffer further delays. This includes putting an identity verification process in place for those who are unable to afford, or do not possess, official documentation.

I support the vital steps you are taking to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the economic measures you have put in place that will go a large way to supporting families across London. But, now more than ever, the most vulnerable need additional help from the Government by removing the condition for NRPF and the five-week wait for Universal Credit. These are vital measures that would help many more people and their families through this unprecedented crisis.

I look forward to hearing from you and I also wish you a very quick recovery.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 12 May 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to urge you to act immediately to put reducing violence at the heart of Government considerations as we move past the initial peak of COVID-19 and you implement your strategy for a phased easing of lockdown.

Before this crisis hit, I was working tirelessly to tackle the scourge of violent crime in London with a wide range of partners, including young people and local communities, through the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). You will know that with the awful exception of domestic abuse, there has been a significant reduction in most indicators of violence during lockdown. However, we should be under no illusion that the underlying causes of violence have gone away. I am deeply concerned that many could be made far worse by the current crisis and its economic consequences, and that with our police service more stretched than ever, violence could resurface as soon as lockdown is eased.

Over recent weeks, the London VRU has spoken with many young people, youth practitioners, teachers, and parents, to listen to their experiences and concerns. We have heard that young people have found this period incredibly challenging. They have had their schooling interrupted, their job prospects diminished, and their normal means of socialising and releasing energy shut down. We know that their mental health has suffered disproportionately, and we know that the most vulnerable young people have struggled to access the same level or quality of interaction with education and youth services that they have previously relied on. I have also seen data which shows that these disproportionalities are even wider for the most deprived households. This is deeply concerning given the proven link between serious violence and deprivation, poor mental health and poverty.

It is therefore essential that the Government gives the strongest consideration to young people in its lockdown exit strategy. Otherwise, there is the serious risk of a return to previous levels of violence in London and in other major cities across the UK. I ask that:

1. You lead a multi-agency effort to prevent a rise in violent crime across the UK, by convening a regular working group of Ministers from all relevant departments, youth service providers, police forces and regional and local elected leaders. A cross-departmental effort from Government, which only the Prime Minister can lead, will be vital if this effort is to succeed.
2. Government invests now in a comprehensive range of diversionary activities targeted at young people ahead of lockdown being eased and ultimately lifted. This is particularly vital if, as looks likely, it coincides with what would have been the summer holidays. We must ensure that pent-up energy can be channelled towards positive activities such as sports,

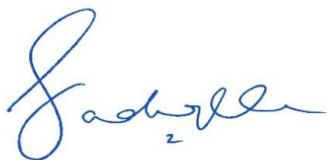
MAYOR OF LONDON

arts and culture and that young people have access to opportunities that support their education and employment prospects. One in three youth practitioners surveyed recently said that their youth organisation was facing significant and immediate financial pressures that threatened their organisation's future sustainability. Youth services need the funding that will enable them to do more during this vital period while transitioning their activities as necessary under the next stage of social distancing guidance.

3. Government directs more resources to schools and local authorities specifically to support their work in getting the most vulnerable children back into education. It will be a real challenge to get some vulnerable young people back into school. Latest figures show that as few as 5 per cent of those still eligible to attend school have actually been doing so during lockdown. This must start with the particular challenges facing the Year 6 cohort, which it is reported are likely to be returning to school first, as they grapple with the transition from primary to secondary schools.
4. You deliver on your promise of funding 20,000 additional police officers across the UK and the associated costs by 2022, including the 6,000 additional officers we need here in London, regardless of the new financial challenges facing the Government as a result of COVID-19.
5. You ensure that Government messaging around the lifting of lockdown is clear and realistic so that it does not place competing demands on the police at a crucial time. Policies developed in this area will require clarity of message, sensitive policing, and realism about what young people are permitted to do safely. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner has told her force only to use its new powers of enforcement as a last resort. I am sure you would agree that police forces continue with this 'explain and encourage' approach with regard to young people in order to maintain the trust and support of communities.

The London VRU is working closely with its counterparts set up across the country last year and will play an ever-more important role in coordinating successful multi-agency responses to serious violence. I welcomed the Government funding in this year's budget to enable us to support interventions to prevent violence and for the Metropolitan Police. In that spirit of collaboration, I ask you to act swiftly to ensure government departments work together to prepare a strong package to support young people, youth services and police forces once lockdown is lifted. If we get this right, we can prevent COVID-19 from leaving a legacy of increased youth violence that will needlessly claim many more lives in years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 14 May 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to advise you that at 5pm today, Transport for London (TfL) is likely to have no choice but to issue a notice under section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act. This will lead to a TfL Board meeting on Monday, at which due to the advice from the TfL CFO and legal advice, I see little alternative but for the Board to agree amongst other measures to the closure of London Underground and most of the capital's bus network, as we will not have the funds to continue. This process will also risk over £8 billion of TfL's debts becoming due, a burden which can only be met by the Government.

As well as the implications for essential workers who rely on the transport network to perform their duties, clearly this will have devastating economic consequences. Given the impact on the workforce and our critical supply chain, it is hard to see how services could easily be restarted in future, which would be catastrophic for the country's economy and public finances.

This is a direct consequence of the impact of COVID-19 on passenger numbers, and TfL's active support for the Government's lockdown. The last forecast before COVID-19 began to impact the UK showed TfL's net operating deficit down to just over £200m, from nearly £1.5bn on a like-for-like basis from what I inherited four years ago. Since I became Mayor, we have reduced the TfL operating deficit by 71% and increased cash balances by 16%. TfL has increased its reserves to manage risks like this, and so far we have spent £1 billion on losses caused by the crisis.

For two months now, we have been seeking Government support to, alongside emergency cost savings and borrowing to the extent possible, help fill the hole left by the collapse in passenger and associated revenues, which consequent to the 2015 Government Spending Review form 80% of TfL's income. While I am grateful for the discussions that have taken place, I have to be honest – at times it has been a challenge to get the Government even to engage. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has refused to meet my Deputy Mayor and the Chancellor has not even had the courtesy to reply to my request for an urgent meeting.

It is frankly shocking that we should reach the point where TfL has in law no option to take this route, and despite the Government being fully aware of this, yesterday evening sought to

MAYOR OF LONDON

impose new conditions on funding that were both not possible as a matter of law and had not been mentioned in negotiations to date. This does regrettably lead to the conclusion that the Government has not been negotiating in good faith.

We should all be proud of the work of TfL's staff, and its suppliers' staff, to keep services running for essential workers and now to step up as lockdown restrictions are eased. Only last night, a new cycle lane was installed on Park Lane, and I know we both share a deep commitment to enable much more cycling across London.

It has been heartening at recent COBR meetings to hear you speak so positively about TfL. I agree, and find it mystifying why the Government apparently wants to throw this away and cause the immense and irreparable harm that will result if the Government does not immediately sign the funding agreement that has been hammered out between officials and is many times cheaper for the Government than the alternative.

TfL has made clear to the Government that, as a matter of law, no delay to the 5pm deadline is possible without an agreement as to funding. I therefore ask that you immediately instruct the signature of the funding agreement approved by TfL, or accept that the Government will have directly caused the catastrophic consequences that will follow.

I would be happy to make myself available to you or a senior member of the Government to discuss this in the remaining hours that we have left.

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: Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 0AA

Date: 29 May 2020

Dear Boris,

I am writing to you following your appearance at the House of Commons Liaison Committee.

In response to a question from London MP Stephen Timms about a family struggling during lockdown because of the no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition, you rightly said that *'people who have worked hard for this country, who live and work here, should have support of one kind or another'*. You also committed to find out how many people are in this position and what your government can do to help.

I wrote to you about Londoners who are struggling with the NRPF condition on 30th March, and I wrote to the Home Secretary on 28th April urging a speedy response on this issue. I am writing again to reiterate the appalling situation many Londoners are finding themselves in.

Despite their contribution to London's society and economy, tens of thousands of Londoners struggle without support as a result of the NRPF condition, including key workers such as delivery drivers, cleaners, carers and NHS staff. Londoners with NRPF are facing homelessness, are denied access to Universal Credit support when they lose their income and their children are refused access to child-related benefits. Children are especially harmed, as highlighted in a recent legal challenge in which the policy was found to be unlawful. Survivors of domestic violence with NRPF face additional challenges to fleeing abuse and seeking out support during this time.

Across local government, there has been a collective call to suspend NRPF and wider immigration-based exclusions during this crisis to enable people to access the support they need and, crucially, to help stop the spread of COVID-19 among those who need to self-isolate safely without losing income. The GLA and local authorities have worked tirelessly to support rough sleepers to access safe accommodation, despite a lack of clarity from Ministers on how to support those with NRPF. Local authorities do not have the capacity to address the scale of need for support to people with NRPF, without a significant shift in policy from your government. It is crucial that the impact of immigration-based exclusions from welfare and homelessness assistance are reviewed urgently and that changes are made to adapt to these exceptional times.

MAYOR OF LONDON

You have an opportunity now to ameliorate the struggles of countless people facing destitution without access to the welfare safety net during these difficult times, and to end rough sleeping for good. During this pandemic, thousands have faced a cliff edge of destitution and timely action from you will ensure that more do not end up in this situation.

I look forward to your response.

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

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 5 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

This is a critical moment for our country as we enter the next phase of lifting the lockdown in response to Covid-19. I am deeply concerned that restrictions are being lifted too soon. This is a concern that I share with public health and medical professionals, including the British Medical Association and the Association of Directors of Public Health, and on evidence from the easing of restrictions in other countries.

The announcement on 10 May that lockdown measures would be loosened was taken when the daily number of positive cases was 3,923. While for other countries taking that decision numbers were much lower, with 1,193 in France and 2,486 in Germany on the day of their announcement. Over the past week at least 74 Londoners have lost their lives, while elsewhere around the world where lockdown has been relaxed there were much lower death rates. And that is why, with more people infected every day, it is too early to ease the lockdown. We cannot afford a second wave of this virus that has already damaged our economy to an extent that we have not seen since the Second World War and created social implications that will take years to fix. We must not be complacent – the country can't afford a second wave. Too many people are still dying every day.

Integral to any lifting of restrictions is both ensuring every person identified as infected self-isolates and having good information systems to prompt rapid action if the R rate starts to rise. Therefore, easing lockdown restrictions without a robust Test, Trace, Isolate (TTI) system puts lives at risk. I am concerned that the availability of a fully operational TTI system is not included in the Government's five tests. I ask for this to be reviewed and TTI to be included in your fourth test on operational delivery, alongside PPE. Further easing of lockdown restrictions must be dependent on clear evidence that an effective TTI system is fully operational.

Following this I have a number of specific concerns, particularly on the risk of fragmentation within the TTI system and the lack of a working digital solution.

First, to be able to respond in London most effectively, we need access to regional level data across all five tests for lifting lockdown, on the functioning of the TTI system and on the regional R rate. Only then can I be confident that the right decisions are being made for Londoners. Can you update me on when these regional data will be available?

MAYOR OF LONDON

Second, for TTI to work effectively, the time taken from requesting a test through receiving a test result to being contacted by a contact tracer needs to be as short as possible. This does not yet appear to be the case, with reports that return of home test results may take up to five days. So I can be assured that the system is operating effectively to prevent and control the virus, what is your target turnaround time for test request to result received and will you publish data to show whether this target is being met?

Third, it is concerning that a significant proportion of home test kits are not returned in London and the Department of Health and Social Care has not yet established the reasons for the low return rate. It is vital that testing is made accessible for all Londoners, including the high proportion of Londoners who do not have access to a car, older Londoners and our BAME communities. I would like further information on the reasons for the low return rate and assurance that action is being taken to address this in London.

Finally, the Government has repeatedly stressed the importance of the App in the overall programme. To ensure low income and digitally excluded Londoners have access to devices which the App can work on, I seek further clarity on how the Government is monitoring the progress of your DeviceDotNow campaign, and whether a far more comprehensive national investment needs to be planned. Local authorities and their teams are well placed to work directly with local communities to help you achieve this.

Getting satisfactory answers to the points raised above will be key for the effective working of the London Transition Board.

COVID-19 is having a devastating impact on London and Londoners – and Londoners lives must not be put at further risk from easing lockdown measures too soon, or from a second wave of this deadly virus.

Given the importance of these issues for Londoners' health, I would be grateful for an urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 18 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

There is an increasing body of evidence that the use of non-medical face coverings by the public can help reduce the spread of coronavirus. This includes recent modelling by scientists from Cambridge and Greenwich Universities. I welcome that face coverings have now, since 15 June, been made mandatory by the Government on public transport, after lobbying from me and others. We can see from the high levels of compliance already that Londoners are willing to wear them for the benefit of all.

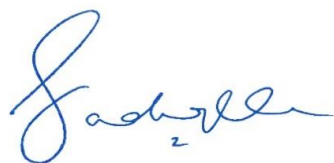
The use of face coverings will become increasingly important as lockdown restrictions are eased and as London and our nation's recovery gets underway. As we understand more about asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission it is vital that we use all available tools, from the NHS Test and Trace service to face coverings, to minimise the spread of the virus and, crucially, prevent a second wave.

I therefore urge you to make face coverings mandatory in a further range of busy public settings and not just public transport and hospitals. There are many places where people will struggle to maintain a safe distance from others, including when shopping. The World Health Organisation updated its guidance to recommend the use of face coverings in a wide range of public settings, including grocery stores, and many European countries - whose lead we have often later followed - have mandated their use in shops and other confined public spaces as part of their strategy for reopening, including Austria, France, Germany, Portugal and Spain. The reopening of non-essential retail in England this week, and plans for the further opening of the leisure and hospitality sectors, provide a clear opportunity to take prompt action and embed the behaviours that will prevent and control the virus. As with public transport, Londoners have already shown they are willing to take steps to protect their community and mandatory face coverings for customers in retail outlets and other spaces where it is impossible to keep a safe social distance, sends a direct message on action they can additionally take to stay, and keep others, safe.

Given the latest easing of restrictions this week and as people return to London's high streets, I would be grateful for an urgent response.

MAYOR OF LONDON

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

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 10 July 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I welcome this week's easing of lockdown and the reopening of London. Londoners are eager to support their local businesses and see their friends and family. As many businesses and venues begin to open their doors again to the public it is even more important that we do all we can to keep people safe.

The evidence is clear that wearing face coverings in enclosed public places can reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus and I am disappointed and frustrated that the Government has not taken this opportunity to make face coverings mandatory in busy and enclosed public places. I simply don't understand why we wouldn't use all the tools at our disposal to try and stop the spread of this virus, so I am urging you to take more decisive action on this.

Since my last letter to you on 18 June, Scotland has announced they will make face coverings mandatory in shops from the 10 July. I have also been joined by the British Medical Association and the Royal Society in calling for the wider use of face coverings. Their intervention comes following yet more evidence and analysis of their impact from the DELVE initiative and the Royal Society's SET-C (Science in Emergencies Tasking – COVID 19) group. As the President of the Royal Society notes, we are already way behind other countries in providing clear policies and guidelines on face coverings to the public. I would ask you to heed the call of our medical and scientific experts.

We continue to learn more about coronavirus and how it is spread. Just this week 239 scientists in 32 countries wrote an open letter to the WHO outlining the evidence and calling on the medical community to recognise the potential for airborne transmission of the virus. We cannot afford to be complacent. We must respond quickly to new insights and take swift action to reduce risk wherever we can.

Face coverings are not only vital for public health. They could play an increasing role in supporting public confidence and our economic recovery. Businesses across the capital need to encourage customers back or they will not survive, and the widespread use of face coverings are a visible signal that Londoners are willing to take the steps needed to keep each other safe. They show how seriously, as a society, we are treating the threat of coronavirus and they are a physical reminder that the virus is still out there.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Making face coverings mandatory in enclosed public places where you can't keep your distance from others, like shops and hairdressers, will help us avoid a second wave, keep businesses open, and ultimately save lives.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

cc Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 24 July 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to offer my support for your renewed focus on tackling obesity. This pandemic has brought many social injustices into full view in our city; one of which is the disproportionate impact on those who have a pre-existing health condition, including obesity. Only by improving Londoner's health, and reducing inequalities, will we be in a far stronger position to deal with any future waves of Covid-19 and save lives.

I have a long-held ambition, which is enacted through City Hall's health inequalities strategy and the Ten Ambitions of our Child Obesity Taskforce, to create an environment which supports Londoners to maintain a healthy weight. There is no silver bullet. Achieving this requires action on many fronts, through a whole system approach, in which we all need to play a part. Whether that is to ensure parents are paid a proper living wage; that housing conditions are conducive to cooking healthy meals; that investment in healthier food is incentivised; or measures to limit the proliferation of fast food outlets on our high streets - every action takes us further towards our goal.

As Mayor of London you also shared this ambition, taking action to increase physical activity among children and young people and to improve their health and wellbeing. You also advocated for action on the tactics used by fast food companies who you said, "mercilessly lure children into excessive calorie consumption".

Worryingly, the National Child Measurement Programme shows that nationally inequalities are widening in obesity, excess weight, and severe obesity for children across all ages and sexes, with the largest increases seen among the most vulnerable. There is a clear link between deprivation and obesity in London and the impact of Covid-19 is putting many more families under financial pressure. It is simply unacceptable in a city as wealthy as London that there are many parents who are struggling to afford food for their children. At age 10–11, a child in one of London's poorest neighbourhoods is twice as likely to experience unhealthy weight than a child living in one of London's richest neighbourhoods.

London's children need every possible chance to grow up in a healthy environment. And yet they are often exposed to advertising and sophisticated promotional techniques that influence their behaviour, at a time when many are not able to differentiate between advertising and objective information.

MAYOR OF LONDON

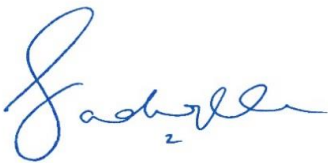
We have heard from Londoners that exposure to unhealthy adverts on the streets and public transport, along with repeated exposure to unhealthy food and drink advertisements on TV and online, are one of the crucial barriers which make it harder to make the healthy choices they would like to. This is a view supported by the British Medical Association, Royal Society of Public Health, Guys and St Thomas' Charity and Cancer Research UK.

But change is possible. Alongside City Hall's action to restrict new fast food outlets within 400m of schools; our introduction of restrictions to the advertising of food and non-alcoholic drinks high in fat, salt and sugar on the TfL estate has led to changes. Major retailers have continued to advertise on the TfL network through amending their advertising copy or switching to advertising healthier products. In the first quarter following its implementation, TfL's advertising income was £33million – up £1 million compared to the first quarter of the previous financial year.

I am greatly encouraged by reports suggesting you plan to implement the 9pm watershed on junk food advertising both on TV and online in what would be an ambitious part of your obesity strategy. Evidence from the WHO suggests that advertising can affect what and when children eat, both just after seeing an advert and in the longer term by shaping children's food preferences from a young age. This can also increase their likelihood of becoming overweight as adults. By implementing a policy which would encourage industry to advertise and develop healthier alternatives, you can ensure you are tackling child obesity from every angle.

I urge you to be bold on tackling obesity. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to tackle this growing problem and I look forward to hearing more about your action on obesity in the coming weeks. I would also welcome further sharing of learning from our approach in London to support government at this crucial time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 29 July 2020

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing in relation to the concerning delay in the appointment of a replacement panel member for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

You wrote to the Chair of the Inquiry over five months ago confirming your intention to appoint a new panel member. You also stated that Cabinet Office officials would engage the services of a search company to identify a shortlist of suitable candidates as a matter of urgency.

The only update you have given since then, despite repeated calls for this to happen, was on 2 June 2020, when in a further letter to the Chair you confirmed Perrett Laver had been appointed to search for a suitable candidate.

This lack of progress and communication is unacceptable. The bereaved, next of kin, survivors, residents and all those who have long called for an independent and diverse panel did so in the knowledge that it would provide a breadth of expertise and differing perspectives that are all too often ignored. Not only is a diverse panel essential for the full trust of the Grenfell community, it will also serve to ensure that the Inquiry can comply with its legal duties including those under the Equality Act 2010.

I wrote to you on 29 January 2020 and 12 June 2020 urging you to appoint a panel member as soon as practicable and requesting that you outline your Cabinet Office's efforts thus far. It is now imperative that the panel member is in place for the recommencement of Phase 2 hearings in September. Further delays simply erode trust in the Inquiry process.

I have today written to the Chair of the Inquiry about the need for the Inquiry to examine whether racism and discrimination were factors in this tragedy, bearing in mind the prevalence of certain protected characteristics amongst London's social tenants. I have also urged the Chair to hold a procedural hearing so that these issues can be explored further.

MAYOR OF LONDON

In the letter of 12 June 2020, I also highlighted the need for transparency around the Grenfell recovery budget being managed by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and concerns that some of the Grenfell bereaved, next of kin and survivors are struggling to gain access to it. I am still waiting for a reply to these serious concerns.

I would be grateful for an urgent response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 3 August 2020

Dear Prime Minister

It is with great surprise that we read in the Sunday papers that Government held a critical exercise last week in which a major resurgence in Covid-19 infections in London was a central scenario. According to media reports, the plans included using the M25 as a quarantine ring – effectively sealing off the city.

Our surprise is that such far reaching contingency plans have been discussed and tested without the involvement or awareness of London's government. This is clearly totally unacceptable and an affront to London and Londoners.

We are accountable to nine million Londoners and have a duty to represent their views and best interests. We also know our communities and their needs far better than national Government. As Category 1 responders we have a legal duty towards our city and cannot do what is right for Londoners if we are excluded from key planning sessions in this way.

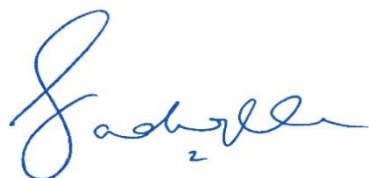
Transitional arrangements for London were established specifically so that all levels of Government and key partners were involved in ensuring coordination of planning and the response to Covid-19. This was to ensure the best outcome for our city. It is highly regrettable that these appear to have been ignored.

It is now 12 weeks since I, as Mayor, was last invited to COBR on behalf of London and its nine million citizens. Decisions continue to be taken without consultation with those who run and understand the country's biggest city. Some of these decisions – and the public messaging which flows from them – do not work for the unique nature of a major metropolitan area the size of London. The Government would better understand that, if London's government were treated properly, and brought into decision making.

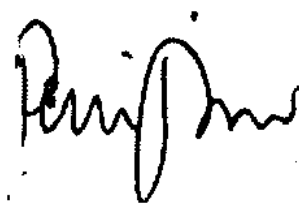
Time and again throughout this crisis, the Government has been slow to take decisions or has taken the wrong decisions – the confusion and delay over going into lockdown, the way Transport for London has been penalised despite doing everything ministers asked, a test and trace system that is not up to the standard required to contain outbreaks and the failure to deliver on promises that the Government will fully compensate local and regional government for the cost of tackling this virus.

This must stop. Riding roughshod over democratically elected representatives who understand their communities better than central government will lead to worse outcomes for Londoners, and the country as a whole.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Cllr Peter John OBE
Chair, London Councils

Cc Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 12 August 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

As you will be aware, businesses in Central London are facing a 'perfect storm' as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Home working, the shut down in domestic and international tourism, and a public transport system with severely constrained capacity mean that even businesses and cultural institutions that have reopened are unable to attract sufficient numbers of visitors to maintain the levels of revenue needed to stay afloat in the long term.

At the heart of the Central Activities Zone (CAZ), visitors to London's West End are down 63% year on year for the same period. The New West End Company forecasts a loss of over £5 billion retail sales within the district this year and estimate that around one third of the retail and hospitality workforce will be made redundant by the end of this year - around 50,000 job losses.

London's CAZ is unique in the UK, both in terms of its contribution to the national economy, and its reliance on the movement of people into it by public transport (especially travel to work) which is incomparable with any other UK conurbation. The constraints on the use of public transport in particular have had an impact on the ability of this area to restore economic activity fully as lockdown restrictions have been eased. The ability of many businesses located in the CAZ to effectively operate with staff working from home has also significantly limited the numbers traveling into the centre.

Recent City Hall research shows that the biggest barrier to people returning to central London in numbers is fear of the virus – and the most important thing we can do to speed up recovery is to give Londoners and visitors confidence that the virus is under control. When asked what would encourage them to return to life as normal, the most common answers from Londoners highlight the problem: lower prevalence of the virus, smaller crowds and more people wearing face coverings.

As Mayor I will do my utmost to promote all that central London has to offer, both to Londoners and tourists. I am sure the Government will wish to do the same.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Key steps I am taking include:

- A £2.3 million Culture at Risk fund, which is helping some of London's most at risk creative and night time businesses, such as cinemas and music venues. Pay it Forward London, a platform created in partnership with Crowdfunder, to enable Londoners to support their favourite small businesses. I have recently created a £1 million match fund to provide further support up to £5000 for participating businesses.
- Supporting the London & Partners led 'Because I'm a Londoner' campaign, built around a London Alliance for consumer confidence.
- Relaunching the London Is Open campaign, highlighting the reopening of London's economy, with a particular focus on hospitality and retail.
- My Deputy Mayors and I urging London's major commercial landlords to provide rent relief – a practice which has been led by Transport for London across its significant commercial estate.
- Substantially expanding TfL's Streetspace programme to maximise capacity for cycling and walking into and across central London so people can get to attractions safely.

Although, along with my partners in London government and the business community, I am committed to promoting a safe return to central London for Londoners and tourists, it is clear that social distancing requirements will be in place for some time. Given the public concerns indicated by our research, we cannot therefore expect visitor numbers to return to their pre-pandemic levels in the foreseeable future, with international business and leisure tourism likely to remain very limited, and many major central London employers planning to continue home-working well into next year. Use of the public transport network at full capacity will remain impossible as long as social distancing is necessary.

The economic case for protecting these businesses is overwhelming. The combined output of the CAZ and Northern Isle of Dogs and their immediate surroundings was around £228bn in 2017, accounting for over half (53%) of London's output and over a tenth (13%) of UK output.

Above all, Central London needs targeted, financial and fiscal support from Government.

I am therefore calling on Government to:

- Confirm an extension to the business rates holiday which is due to end in March or a discount for businesses in the CAZ for the next year, guaranteed now. Many large retail, leisure and hospitality businesses will take important decisions for 2021/22 in the coming weeks, so certainty over the business rates holiday is urgently needed.
- Create a direct financial aid scheme for hospitality, retail, leisure and cultural businesses in the CAZ.
- Provide targeted support for jobs and the workforce extension to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for retail, hospitality, leisure, and creative businesses that will not be able to operate on a financially sustainable level under continued social distancing requirements.
- Extend support for freelancers and the self-employed. The cultural and creative industries that characterise central London are hugely dependent on these workers.

MAYOR OF LONDON

- Progress an overhaul of business rates, in particular one that creates a fair playing field between physical and online retail. A subsequent letter with more detail will be forthcoming.
- Introduce a support scheme for small and medium-sized businesses that are struggling to meet their rent bills due to coronavirus, which could help to facilitate negotiations between landlords and tenants in cases where rent is in arrears.
- Prioritise investment in NHS Test and Trace and more support for hospitality businesses to implement systems. It is now clear that we need to learn to live with the virus, and Test and Trace plays a large role in giving the public confidence.
- I would also encourage the Government to explore other measures which could increase public confidence and bring public health benefits, such as making face coverings compulsory in the busiest public spaces (as has been done in Paris), and commission further scientific research into the efficacy of such measures.

The challenge that central London is facing is stark and urgent. Damage to its prosperity will not just impact the capital, but undoubtedly the prosperity of the whole UK. As you know, the centre of London is the UK's economic and cultural powerhouse, and a gateway for global tourism and investment into the rest of the UK. It has contributed to the UK far more than it has taken out, and while I support efforts to grow the prosperity of all parts of the country, this will not happen if as a country we abandon our most dynamic and productive commercial hub to decline. This is what is at risk, and why the Government needs to come together with London Government and its business community to support it, before it is too late.

I urge you to consider the above proposals and look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

CC:

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 08 September 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

The COVID-19 crisis has already triggered the most far-reaching public health and economic emergency since the Second World War, and the prospect of a second wave of the virus - and the further devastation this would bring - is now looking increasingly likely. It would therefore be the worst possible moment for the Government to choose to inflict a further economic shock on our country with a no-deal Brexit.

In London – like local and regional authorities across the UK – we are already having to deal with the catastrophic impact of COVID-19 on jobs, incomes and livelihoods at the same time as our public services are facing a new era of austerity, forced upon us by the Government's lack of help towards the enormous costs London government faces following COVID-19 and lockdown. If you continue along this irresponsible path towards a damaging no-deal Brexit, it will only make an already extremely difficult and precarious situation far worse for London and the whole country.

A report commissioned by City Hall predicted that a no-deal Brexit could cost as many as 87,000 jobs in London alone by 2030. If London has to face the triple whammy of a COVID-19 second wave, yet more austerity, and a no-deal Brexit, it would cut off at the knees any chance we have of a rapid economic recovery and would lead to countless more jobs and businesses being lost unnecessarily.

That's why, if the latest round of Brexit talks ends in no significant progress once again, I urge you to put the national interest first and to seek an immediate extension to the trade negotiations of at least 12 months. Given the optimistic messages coming from the Government about the possibility for a vaccine being available next year, seeking an extension of this length would allow us to focus in the meantime entirely on the priorities of getting the virus under control, protecting jobs and supporting businesses.

Extending the transition period to allow time for a vaccine to be developed would enable you and your government to focus 100 per cent on getting the right processes and infrastructure in place that we desperately need to turn the tables on COVID-19, such as getting a proper test, trace and isolate system working, learning from previous mistakes so that we can be prepared for a second wave, and providing enough support to those sectors of our economy that need it the most.

An extension to the transition period would not only give businesses and our public services the certainty they desperately need, but would provide the space for the economic recovery effort to have a fighting chance, rather than being choked off.

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Government has rightly intervened in recent months to help many businesses survive up until this point, but inflicting a no-deal Brexit on them would be the equivalent of giving with one hand only to take away with the other. Businesses also need more time to adapt and innovate within the new COVID-19 world, without having to deal with the drain on resources and red tape that would come with having to adjust to new onerous regulatory requirements regarding imports, exports and accessing talent.

This is not about whether people supported remaining in the EU or leaving. That debate is over - we have left. This is about doing the right thing and putting British interests ahead of party posturing and political dogma at a moment of acute national crisis, which could still escalate further in the days, weeks and months to come.

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

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Email: mayor@london.gov.uk

London Councils
59½ Southwark Street
London SE1 0AL
Switchboard: 020 7934 9999
Email: info@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Date: 24 September 2020

Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

We welcomed the constructive summit convened by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 11 September, at which London Leaders and the Secretary of State agreed the Escalation Framework for London. However, in light of the alarming new data on the increase in cases of COVID-19 since that meeting, there can be no doubt that we are at a perilous moment in the fight against this virus.

We are deeply concerned at the lack of testing in London and the spread of the virus that requires urgent Government action. This is especially the case given information recently considered by London Leaders:

- The number of tests undertaken on Londoners per week has fallen 43% between the end of August and mid-September
- The prevalence of COVID-19 in Londoners seems similar to that in the North West and North East
- The vast majority of London boroughs are already in the epidemic phase
- We have seen a spike in 111 and GP consultations in September – and London boroughs are now featuring in daily 111 alerts
- The number of patients with COVID-19 in London's hospitals is already creeping up
- A further uptick in admissions to ICU/HDC units in London is now evident, placing the rate in London amongst the highest in the country

London has unique needs and challenges that must be addressed. We had the highest proportion of deaths due to COVID-19 over March and April 2020; and of the 10 local authorities with the highest age-standardised COVID-19 mortality rates, nine were in London. London is at high risk of being hard hit in a second wave due to a number of risk factors for COVID-19 including the density of the city, which is 10 times that of the North West of England, the high proportion of ethnic minority residents and higher levels of overcrowding and substandard housing. London also has higher rates of income and expenditure poverty, higher levels of homelessness and rates of migration and mobility compared to other areas.

In light of the increasing spread of the virus, London Leaders therefore met on 21 September to consider a range of potential measures needed to control the spread of the disease. We met again yesterday, following your announcement of new national measures to control the virus, to consider whether we felt it necessary to adopt further London-specific measures on top of these.

While we broadly support the Government's new measures, there are a number of crucial areas on which further action is urgently required to prevent the spread of the virus in London.

It is vital that the Government continues to work with us, through the appropriate forums, and provides unequivocal support for these additional measures, which have cross-party consensus across London's Government, including:

1. The reallocation of testing capacity to London to give us a better understanding of the real incidences in the city;
2. the need for a public information campaign in London to promote the wider use of face coverings, given our population density.

London Leaders also discussed a possible future shielding approach that is based on the best available evidence, and appropriately funded, and that vulnerable Londoners have the support and resources they need when required to self-isolate. We would also welcome the offer of a further Summit with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, should the need arise.

We have included a summary of the wider set of indicators used to understand the course of the epidemic in London provided by Public Health England. This was discussed at the London Leaders meeting this week, and in your recent discussion with the Mayor it was agreed this data would be provided for consideration by COVID-O. This letter has therefore been copied to Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office in his capacity as Chair of COVID-O.

The indicators used to make this assessment include, but are not limited to, the number of patients in hospital with coronavirus, seroprevalence in London, modelling data, positivity rates and other NHS indicators, such as GP attendance and calls to the NHS 111 service. Testing remains an important indicator. The demand for coronavirus tests in London is exceeding supply and it is vital we can assess people with symptoms. But with having been diverted away from London at a moment of great risk, we cannot accurately track the spread of the virus. That is why we are asking that people only get a test if they have clear coronavirus symptoms.

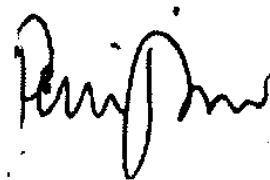
We continue to do all we can to ensure that Londoners pull together to help reverse this upward trend, but we need the Government to play its part in ensuring there is adequate testing available. Londoners have made monumental sacrifices during the pandemic and now urgent additional measures need to be examined if we are to work together to protect both lives and livelihoods across the capital.

We look forward to your urgent response. This letter is also copied to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Cllr Peter John OBE
Chair, London Councils

Cc: Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster & Minister for the Cabinet Office
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 14 October 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

We are at an absolutely critical point in our fight against COVID-19. Across all of London cases are rapidly on the increase and urgent action is needed to prevent the virus from spiralling out of control.

Following your announcement of the new three tiers of restrictions, I am seeking clarification on the level of financial and other support that will be provided to local authorities, businesses and the most vulnerable when London moves from its current Medium Alert Level to a High Alert Level. With the London rate fast approaching 100 cases per 100,000 and on the increase, it is likely that we will move to High Alert Level very soon, possibly this week.

None of us want more restrictions in London but given the increase in infection rates and the lack of testing we have little choice. The Government must therefore put in place a support package for businesses, workers and London's local authorities – at those at High Alert level, not just those in Very High. It is imperative that discussions are had with London government to agree what level of government support will be provided so we can be as clear as possible with Londoners about what they can expect. It is vital London has the resources to engage, explain, encourage and enforce heightened restriction and support compliance. One London borough has done some specific work to estimate the cost of providing that service for six months from November onward and it is £300k over and above the allocation that was recently made to councils for support to compliance. I am aware that these are discussions that have taken place with other areas that have had restrictions in place and London government would expect to have those discussions as well.

London has a set of unique circumstances that must be reflected in the approach and support, including very diverse communities compared to elsewhere. The capital was hit particularly hard during the first wave with many of our communities and particularly the BAME community, suffering disproportionately. In addition, many families live in overcrowded accommodation and face high levels of homelessness and rough sleeping. Our size and density present specific challenges, with the economic case for protecting businesses in the Central Activities Zone overwhelming. In addition to preparing for a High Alert Level, consultation with local authorities to determine additional measures for a Very High Alert Level must happen immediately to ensure London is prepared. These discussions must be underpinned with better data and information sharing, including evidence on the routes of transmission.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I would therefore appreciate if you could urgently clarify the provision that will be made for:

Support for Business

- I agree that restrictions are now necessary, yet many of the measures taken to stop the spread of coronavirus have left sectors reeling. Many of these are not dying sectors - these are businesses that we are confident will return to thriving once we have come through this pandemic. I welcome the additional government support, but hundreds of thousands of jobs remain at risk in the capital and more needs to be done to protect both businesses and workers through these uncertain times.
- Protecting lives and protecting livelihoods must go hand in hand, which is why additional support is needed at the 'High' alert level. At 67 per cent of usual pay, the new Job Support Scheme is less generous than the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and it leaves out workers in sectors which are not "legally closed" but are struggling under the restrictions currently in place, as well as the self-employed. At present the scheme does not prevent the incomes of the lowest-paid workers falling below the minimum wage, but many Londoners in this position are blocked from accessing additional support through the benefit system.
- It is critical that the Government urgently resolve Transport for London's funding position. London's transport network is a vital asset, yet the pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on TfL's finances. Over 70 per cent of TfL's income for operating the network comes from fares. With ridership down - which is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future - and with a difficult winter ahead - the Government must agree a funding package to enable TfL to continue running its services which are so crucial over this difficult period.
- I am also very concerned about the impact of Tier 2 on the hospitality sector and the supply chains associated with that. The Government should immediately confirm an extension to the business rates holiday for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses, due to end in March 2021. After March there is a compelling case for additional relief on sectors and locations that continue to be most heavily impacted on, such as the cultural and hospitality sectors.
- As we approach winter, business will also need further support to help them adapt and maintain a COVID safe environment for staff and customers, including help with measures such as screens to protect staff, use of outside space, PPE and better ventilation in-line with government advice.
- Businesses have done the right thing throughout the pandemic, adapting and changing to fast moving circumstances. We all want businesses to operate where they safely can, but they need as much notice as possible of changes to come and they need to understand the evidence underpinning decisions about their future. There needs to be a dialogue with the Government prior to announcements of further restrictions to avoid the sort of unintended consequences we have seen with the curfew, and to ensure new measures are implemented safely and effectively.

Support for vulnerable Londoners:

- It is essential that anyone who is faced with redundancy or a loss of earnings as a consequence of new restrictions is able to access benefits or crisis support straight away to avoid slipping into financial hardship.

MAYOR OF LONDON

That is why I urge you to remove the five-week wait for Universal Credit, suspend No Recourse to Public Funds conditions and restore funding for Local Welfare Assistance schemes to the equivalent of pre 2015/2016 levels.

- There must also be additional financial support put in place for Londoners already in vulnerable situations many of whom will face increased costs or a fall in income as a consequence of additional restrictions. I am therefore calling on you to expand the £20 per week increase to Universal Credit and Tax Credits to all other legacy benefits (Employment and Support Allowance, Job Seekers Allowance and Income Support), uprate child benefit payments by £10 per child per week, and temporarily remove the benefit cap and two-child limit. In addition to direct financial support to individuals, I would like to understand how those in overcrowded accommodation, or living with a vulnerable person, will be supported to self-isolate.
- During the national lockdown, many vulnerable Londoners who were unable to access food were supported through the Government's national shielding programme. As infection rates rise, and in the absence of similar support, Londoners that don't have existing support networks are likely to turn to local authorities and food aid organisations for food support. The Government must ensure they are appropriately funded to meet this increasing need.
- Communal shelter and severe weather emergency provision accommodation poses a substantial risk of transmission and infection for residents, staff, the local community, and the families they interact with. The £10m recently announced will be inadequate to ensure rough sleepers have access to COVID-secure accommodation this winter - as temperatures fall, Ministers must act now to properly fund self-contained, COVID-secure accommodation such as hotels.

Test and Trace, including support for those self-isolating:

- Testing in London has risen significantly in the last three weeks, however the testing rate remains the lowest in the country and is currently less than 80 per cent of the average rate achieved across England. Testing rates in the North West are over 1.6 times higher than London and over 1.5 times higher in the North East. We need an immediate increase in testing capacity so that London's testing rates can increase to the national average. London swiftly needs to achieve testing rates seen in the North West and North East as we move into High Alert Level, and - in line with other parts of the country - London needs resourcing to enable us to develop more localised approaches.
- The prioritisation of testing for key workers will need to be considered in the specific London context. This would include looking at the testing provision for schools, TfL and Met Police staff, and other essential services.
- In order to get a COVID-19 test sent to your home, an individual needs to pass identity verification checks through the TransUnion credit reference agency. There are many groups of Londoners who will be unwilling or unable to supply this information and if their identity cannot be verified, they are required to go to a walk-in or drive-through test centre. These centres are not accessible to many, in particular the many Londoners without cars. Londoners must have access to testing within a reasonable distance from their home and a system must be put in place which is not reliant on having a visible credit history

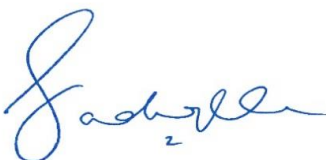
MAYOR OF LONDON

- It is also essential that all local testing sites in London have the ability to reserve (daily) tests for their local residents. It is vital that we know who is being tested so that we can ensure that we are able to target messaging to London's very diverse communities. London should also be given control of Mobile Testing Units without delay.
- The Test and Trace Support Payment (TTSP) must be enough to support Londoners to follow public health advice and keep their community safe and should be more widely available. I remain concerned about Low Income Londoners who are not eligible for support either from this payment or Statutory Sick Pay (SSP). Local authorities should have increased resource to provide discretionary support and the weekly Statutory Sick Pay rate should be increased to the equivalent of the London Living Wage. The lower earnings threshold should also be removed to ensure that low-paid workers who are ineligible for benefits have the support they need to self-isolate.
- I am aware that care homes are not able to access testing for staff and residents through the appropriate channels. This raises the very real prospect of repeating the experiences of the first wave, during which many care homes experienced infection outbreaks and thousands of care home residents died after contracting COVID. I urge a redoubling of efforts to ensure that all care homes have full and timely access to testing for all staff and residents. This is essential before the pressure on our hospitals builds to the point where significant numbers of vulnerable Londoners need urgent discharge to care homes.
- During the first wave, infection in care homes and between care home residents was exacerbated by the discharge of people into homes without knowledge of their COVID-status, or where their COVID-status was known to be positive. I note the letter from the Director General for the Department of Health and Social Care (dated 13 October) asking for councils to confirm provision for people with COVID to be discharged from hospital. Councils in London have worked hard to protect their care homes. I recognise the need to protect hospitals as the infections escalates across the capital so ask the Government to work with councils to explore all options for avoiding the risk of unsafe discharge to community provision. It should be noted that there remain many thousands of asylum seekers and rough sleepers accommodated in London hotels, for example. The Government must work with councils to explore all options for avoiding the risk of unsafe discharge to community provision.

I will continue to urge Londoners to be vigilant, follow the rules and exercise caution. I accept that these new measures will impact on businesses and Londoners, but we have a joint responsibility to work together and do what we can to control this virus and save lives.

I would welcome an urgent response and clarification on the points raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

cc Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 16 October 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Government support for Transport for London (TfL)

As you are aware, over the last few weeks, I have worked very closely with council leaders of all political colours from across London and the government on an appropriate escalation strategy as the COVID-19 infection figures have steadily climbed. Given the seriousness of this issue, I have striven to work as collegiately as possible, and to support London moving as one should there be a need to move from Local COVID Alert Level Medium to High.

This collegiate relationship has extended to how we have collectively worked with your officials in Number 10, and Ministers and officials in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Yesterday's decision to move from Medium to High for the whole Greater London area, while not a decision any of us would have wanted, has progressed in an efficient manner. I would like to put on record my thanks to your team and officials from across Government for how closely we have worked together. Given the likely impact on businesses and individuals, I have written to you separately about the need for additional financial support. As I await a response, I hope that this good working relationship over the recent past can be built on over the coming challenging weeks and months.

While the move to Local COVID Alert Level High does not change the formal advice on travelling, it is almost certainly going to result in fewer people using public transport. The tightened restrictions on social mixing both in the home and in cafes, restaurants, etc., will see a fall in demand for travel. This will have a negative impact on the already stretched by COVID-19 finances of TfL, which are very reliant on fare income – more so than any similar major transit authority.

You know from your eight years as Mayor of this great city just how critical TfL is to the success of London. It really is the motor of what keeps it functioning, and like me you will have felt pride at being responsible for a fantastic world-leading transit authority. However, without an efficient and reliable TfL operating at full capacity, the very success of the city is under threat, and with it the economic health of the whole country. That is why there is an urgent need to come to an agreement on emergency financial support for TfL.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Given we do not know yet for how long the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in will continue, it is hard to work on a long-term funding solution. That is why I firmly believe that an 18-month package, similar to that offered to the train operating companies, is needed. An 18-month package provides the certainty TfL needs to continue to run services in London and maintain investment, while simultaneous discussions can begin on a longer-term plan. However, to be agreed in time to avoid the worst, such a deal simply cannot include the punitive conditions currently being proposed by the Government, through the Department for Transport (DfT).

I am writing to you today because it is my genuine fear that for whatever reason, intended or unintended, time has almost run out for a deal. We need to sort this urgently, and in a way that does not punish Londoners who have done all that has been asked of them during this difficult time. I don't intend to go into full details on the ramifications of us not agreeing a deal, but my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, has today written to Sir Tom Scholar at HM Treasury setting these out.

In summary, failure to agree risks a cataclysmic domino effect where TfL would be left with no choice but to dramatically reduce tube and bus services, lay off staff, halt work on Crossrail, and create huge negative knock-on effects through TfL's multi-billion pound supply chain across the country. You know from your time at City Hall just how many jobs and businesses up and down the country rely on contracts with TfL – in time of national crisis, this is the last thing many businesses and parts of the country need.

Alongside TfL's twenty years of debts, the cost of honouring some huge contracts and pension obligations would necessarily fall on HM Treasury. Effectively ceasing public transport in the capital would also have a catastrophic impact, both on our public services as we battle COVID-19, and on the national economy, given the net £39 billion contribution London made to the Exchequer last year. The case for a further funding deal that gets us through the COVID-19 crisis and gives us time to agree suitable long-term arrangements is compelling.

I appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with you the other week. As you will know from your period as Mayor, it is crucial on occasions to speak with the Prime Minister directly on matters of real urgency. I believe the future funding of TfL is one such matter, and I request the chance to speak with you personally before matters escalate. It is particularly important we speak before the working group of officials meets again on Monday, as in order for them to be productive in the limited time left, a political steer is needed from the very top. I stand ready to speak with you at short notice over the weekend.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 13 November 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on our Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, the 21st anniversary of the report of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and the brutal killing of George Floyd in the United States have rightly brought structural racism in our society and public institutions back into sharp focus.

I completely understand the depth of frustration and despair felt by so many BAME citizens. As Mayor, I want Londoners, whatever their background or ethnicity, to have full confidence in their public institutions. It is quite clear to me from speaking with BAME Londoners, community leaders, community groups and activists that currently many BAME Londoners still do not. While I note the call for evidence being led by the new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, and we will fully engage with this, I expect the findings it collates will reinforce what we know already about structural inequalities for minority ethnic groups across public services. In response to the Commission's findings, it is crucial that there is action from the Government. Clear decisive action from central government will lead to truly meaningful change up and down the country.

As Mayor, I am taking action across my remit to tackle issues of structural racism and inequality in London. This includes my Inclusive London Strategy and through other initiatives including a review of Diversity in the Public Realm in London and work to make London's curriculum more diverse. You will also be aware that I have announced steps to ensure that the GLA becomes an actively anti-racist organisation, launching an organisational-wide cultural change programme, underpinned by an independent review into the structural barriers that prevent BAME progression, and specifically the progression of Black Londoners.

Taking that work further, today I am publishing an Action Plan to increase Black Londoners' trust and confidence in one of the city's critical public services – the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

For decades the relationship between the MPS and Black Londoners has been tumultuous. While the MPS has made huge progress since the 1999 Stephen Lawrence Inquiry towards becoming a fairer, more transparent and more representative service, disproportionality still exists in the way some police powers are used on Black Londoners.

MAYOR OF LONDON

In addition, Black Londoners continue to have a lower level of confidence in the police than white Londoners, and the MPS workforce remains a long way from being fully representative of the communities it serves.

This Action Plan has been co-produced in a process led by Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden and Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Integration, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, bringing Black communities and police officers together to hear each other's perspectives and build a consensus about the next steps we need to take together to ensure that the MPS is a service that all Black Londoners can feel confident in, that is transparent and accountable for its work and that represents the diversity of our great city. The strength of feeling and concern about issues past and present was undeniable, as was the energy and determination to make changes for the better.

The resulting Action Plan, which has been enclosed for your attention, aims to bring about real change and ensure that the police are seen to use their powers more fairly and to be more accountable to communities. There is also a strong focus on fostering deeper relationships between the police and Black communities. The Plan is specifically focused on the following areas:

- Better use of police powers
- Working together to make Black communities safer
- A police service that represents and understands Black Londoners
- Holding the police to account for what they do

While most of the Actions are being led at a London level, there were a number of issues identified that would benefit from national oversight and leadership, not just regarding policing, but across our public sphere.

I would like to highlight to you four particular areas for Government action.

1) The lack of Ministerial priority and focus on addressing racial disparities across Government, particularly in relation to increasing trust and confidence in policing amongst minority ethnic communities

Several reviews have previously considered community-police relations and the impact of policing on different communities, including the Lammy Review, the Angiolini Review, the London Rape Review, and the Report on the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry amongst many others. When considered together they have produced hundreds of recommendations designed to address these deep-rooted issues, but many of which continue to be unimplemented. Many of the 35 recommendations made in the Lammy Review are yet to be properly implemented, including that each year Magistrates should follow an agreed number of cases in the youth justice system from start to finish.

In particular, the first, and most overarching recommendation of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report was that a Ministerial Priority be established for police services in order "to increase trust and confidence in policing amongst minority ethnic communities."

I would highlight how much progress was made during the time of the Ministerial Board overseeing the Lawrence Recommendations. Scrutiny at that level not only focuses the minds of those delivering policing, but it also demonstrates how seriously the Government views the issues of concern.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I would urge you to reinstate such a Board to oversee implementation of the Commission's recommendations and other wider work on tackling structural inequalities.

2) Stop and search remains a key issue for Black communities

I am aware that the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSSS) has been suspended in London as the MPS is part of a national pilot that does not align with the BUSSS. I would welcome confirmation of when the pilot – that was due to finish some time ago – will be finalised and the outcomes published, so that we can have a full understanding and acceptance of the benefits of the changes that have been made, or revert back to full implementation of the BUSS Scheme.

3) The issue of road traffic stops featured as a significant issue of concern

You will be aware that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has previously made recommendations that there should be a set of minimum recording standards for stops under the Road Traffic Act for the purpose of assessing their effective and fair use. You will also be aware that the Police Service has a duty not to discriminate on grounds of protected characteristics ([section 149](#) of the Equality Act 2010), and a duty not to act in a manner incompatible with the human rights of any individual ([section 6\(1\)](#) of the Human Rights Act 1998). This means that it is unlawful to use these powers in a discriminatory way. However, in the absence of comprehensive recorded data, it is impossible to either confirm or dispel any perceptions of disproportionality in the use of these powers. The Home Office has previously indicated that it understood this point and that the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act Code A would be extended to include appropriate recording requirements.

While this has not happened, the issues it was intended to address have not gone away. I would therefore urge you to take necessary action to compel police services to collect and publish data on the ethnicity of drivers stopped under the Road Traffic Act, as part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement. In addition, I would also ask that the Codes of Practice supporting the PACE Act be extended to cover road traffic stops to more clearly define the limits of the powers.

4) Your Government has been bold in its claims that the police officer uplift will provide an opportunity for the service to be more representative of the communities it serves. However, the current legislative framework makes this challenging

I urge the Government to review the legislative framework for police officer recruitment to ensure it is fit for purpose and that it supports efforts to maximise the number of new officer recruits, in particular from Black communities. It is absolutely clear from the conversations held as we developed the Action Plan that communities want to see real, transformative change in this space from the Government to accelerate progress in achieving representation in the police workforce. There is an appetite in London to go further, and it would be helpful if the legislative framework would allow this.

The work set out within my Action Plan will make a real difference to the operations of the MPS and the lives of Londoners. I will be looking at delivering the commitments in the Action Plan as quickly as possible, while acknowledging that we are dealing with deep-rooted issues.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I commend the Plan to you and sincerely hope that you will do your part as the Prime Minister, as I have outlined in this letter, to help deliver the change our Black communities both demand and deserve.

I look forward to receiving your response to the Action Plan, and the issues raised above.

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 Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department
Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

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Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 0AA

Date: 20 November 2020

Dear Prime Minister

Now that we are halfway through the current national lockdown we wanted to reiterate to you London government's commitment to working together as a region, with your Government, as we enter the next phase of the fight against the pandemic.

To that end, we are seeking confirmation that the Government's decision on which tier London will exit into on 2 December will be determined through examination of the data and epidemiology; and that we are given as much notice of that decision as possible in order to provide certainty to Londoners and businesses. It is our understanding that this decision will be informed by the data available next week. If further data is likely to be considered, we trust that it will be shared with us in a timely manner.

It is also important that we continue to be consulted on that decision in line with the escalation/de-escalation process that was agreed with the Health and Social Care Secretary at the London Summit on 11 September. We know that you will agree that the fact that London's voice is inbuilt in this process has allowed all levels of government to maintain a grip of the pandemic in the capital. If there is to be any change to timings in the Government's decision making process, we ask that we are informed immediately.

We welcome reports that the Government is looking again at the restrictions in each tier to ensure that they are appropriate to deal with the level of virus transmission in an area or region after national restrictions are lifted on 2 December. We request that this review of restrictions is evidence based and, as London government leaders, that we are included in the process to determine what works for our region. For example, in London we have yet to see any evidence that the 10pm curfew for hospitality contributes to a reduction in virus transmission. However, we do know that it is detrimentally impacting on the viability of business. We would also like to see consideration given to wider use of face coverings in outdoor crowded environments and to enable people to safely entertain guests indoors in their homes, or return to a wider range of workplaces.

We look forward to hearing from you on the points raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sadiq Khan".

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Georgia Gould".

Cllr Georgia Gould
Chair, London Councils

Cc: Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 22 November 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

This week, we came together as the London Covid Business Forum to discuss what can and must be done by London government, central government and the business community to support the safe and full re-opening of London's economy and help more of the capital's businesses to survive and recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have committed to doing everything in our power to support businesses to survive this crisis and to ensure that London maintains its global pre-eminence as a centre for international business, culture and tourism.

Collectively we are working to a shared and evolving roadmap for economic recovery and have attached a version with this letter. But there are several necessary actions that can only be taken by the Government.

We therefore urge you to immediately prioritise the following five urgent steps:

1. Provide clear communications and a transparent strategy on the management of the pandemic which provides businesses with adequate notice and clear guidance in advance of changes to restrictions and tiers. This must include forward guidance on what to expect on and from 3 December, alongside a clear explanation of the evidence underpinning the restrictions and a formal review timetable.
2. Work with business and London government on the rapid roll out of mass testing and any applicable vaccination programmes with the working-age population, with regular updates on the mass testing pilots, and plan for involving businesses in these programmes.
3. Rule out reinstating the hospitality curfew within the tier-based system after the current period of national lockdown.
4. Confirm an extension to the business rates holiday for retail, leisure, childcare, and hospitality businesses, that was due to end in March 2021 and extend the reduced 5% VAT rate for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions, currently due to end 31 March 2021. These steps need to be taken urgently to help businesses plan for the coming year.

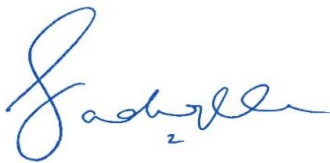
MAYOR OF LONDON

5. Reverse your plans to end the VAT Retail Export Scheme at the close of this year. While much of tax-free shopping is done in London, the negative impact will also be felt across the UK with over 20% of the annual £3.5 billion tax free sales usually made outside London.

The future of our capital city as a global centre of business, culture and tourism is vital to our country's economy. Damage to London's global competitiveness will not just be felt in the capital but will impact the whole of the UK.

We all stand ready to work alongside the Government to ensure that London, as well as the rest of the country, once again returns to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

Cllr Georgia Gould

Chair, London Councils & Co-Chair, Recovery Board

Angus Knowles-Cutler

Co-Deputy Chair, Local Enterprise Partnership for London

Bernard Donoghue

Director, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions

Caroline Norbury MBE

Chief Executive, Creative Industries Federation & Chief Executive, Creative England

Catherine McGuinness

Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, City of London Corporation

Baroness Deborah Bull

Vice President & Vice-Principal (London) & Senior Advisory Fellow for Culture, King's College London

Jasmine Whitbread

Chief Executive, London First

Michael Kill

Chief Executive Officer, Night Time Industries Association

Ojay McDonald

Chief Executive, Association of Town & City Management

MAYOR OF LONDON

Sir Peter Rogers

Chairman, New West End Company

Richard Burge

Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Simon Pitkeathley

Chief Executive Officer, Camden Town Unlimited & Chair, Transition Board Business Reopening Strategy Group

Kate Nicholls,

Chief Executive, UKHospitality

Asma Khan

Founder & Owner, Darjeeling Express

David Stringer-Lamarre

Chairman, Institute of Directors, London Region

Rowena Howie

Policy Chair, FSB London

Julie Brown

Chief Operating & Financial Officer, Burberry

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The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 13 December 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Like you, we are deeply concerned in the rise in cases of Covid-19 across the capital. We are grateful for the Government support, from this week, for increased testing in the worst hit boroughs so we can trace and isolate families who are preparing to mix with each other over the holiday period.

However, given the surge in cases in London, and in neighbouring counties of Kent and Essex, further urgent government action is needed to ensure we regain control of the virus. There can be no doubt as to the catastrophic impact Covid-19 has had on lives and livelihoods and our health and care system, not just in London, but the whole country. We are therefore calling on you to take further urgent measures, on the back of public health advice, to prevent a continued increase in cases and to highlight the additional support London needs should the Government decide on new tougher restrictions.

Community testing and testing in schools

The biggest spread of the virus in the capital is within education settings and specifically amongst the 10 -19 year old age group. If the Government is considering moving London into Tier 3 - this will do nothing to address this, while having a catastrophic impact on our economy.

We are grateful that following discussions with the Secretaries of State for Health and MHCLG this week, Mobile Testing Units are now being rolled out in schools in the seven boroughs in North-East London. However, following the guidance that was issued to T3 regions last week on increased testing provision this now needs to be mobilised right across the capital, from tomorrow. London now has 17 local authorities where the 7-day case rate exceeds 200 cases per 100,000, and the 7-day case rate has risen in 32 local authorities compared to the previous week. Levels of testing in London remain the lowest in England and it is vital that asymptomatic testing is extended at a minimum to all Londoners who are unable to work from home, and to all pupils at secondary schools, sixth form and FE colleges this week, so that positive cases are able to self-isolate and prevent ongoing transmission to people in their communities.

All schools, sixth form and FE colleges, not just in the boroughs with higher levels of cases but across London, should be given priority testing tomorrow and Tuesday. This will allow urgent identification of positive cases and ensure those pupils and their families self-isolate before the holidays begin. This would also enable teachers and teaching staff to explain to pupils, before they break up, of the measures they need to take in the holiday period to prevent the spread of infection.

Furthermore, urgent consideration must also be given to closing secondary schools, sixth form and FE colleges a few days early and keeping them closed for longer after Christmas to allow for further testing. All secondary school age children should be able to receive regular testing from January in order to keep down transmission in schools and colleges and keep in-person education open and as safe as possible. Additional resources will also need to be given to support on-line learning and catch up provision if further restrictions are agreed to be necessary. In addition, it is also vital that there is improved Government support for those who need to self-isolate and additional funding to boroughs to strengthen the encouragement of and practical support for those self-isolating.

Support for business

Should the Government decide to move London to further restrictions, current support is insufficient to keep many businesses and the self-employed afloat. The Christmas and New Year period provides a huge part of annual takings for the hospitality, culture and events industries, and the period this year was likely to be the difference between businesses surviving the pandemic and failing. For example, UKHospitality warn a move to Tier 3 could see £2.7bn wiped off London hospitality, and up to 160,000 jobs permanently at risk by the end of December. Many restaurant suppliers are holding large amounts of stock to cope with the additional Christmas and New Year demand. Much of this will now go to waste.

Theatres and venues in London have begun to reopen, many for the first time since March and after making their venues as safe as possible. Several major Christmas theatre productions are scheduled in December and January in the West End alone. Last minute cancellations of these could prove ruinous. Many did not receive support from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund and the impact on freelancers, artists and the supply chain ecosystem will be devastating. For London's local independent cinemas, dependent on blockbuster Christmas film releases, closure now represents an existential threat.

The Government needs to go much further and we are asking that you urgently put in place a compensation scheme - before any additional restrictions are placed - for all lost income for the crucial festive period based on last year's returns. For new businesses, compensation should be based on estimates of income using data for similar firms. Workers who are required to self-isolate must also receive full pay and not just statutory sick pay if we are to prevent people returning to work when still infected and spreading the disease.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant is also insufficient given the duration of the crisis and needs urgently increasing. Over £1.8bn of business rate support has been returned by retailers, providing a source of finance to fund this additional support.

Longer term, the Government must guarantee business interruption insurance for theatres and the live performance sector – in the film sector, this has got £1bn of production back in business.

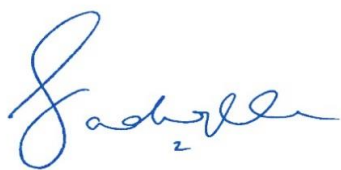
With London's business leaders, we have previously written to you with a roadmap for the safe and full reopening of London's economy which included specific measures such as extension to the business rates holiday due to expire at end of March – if further restrictions are brought in now, many businesses will be on the brink of collapse and need clarity now. An urgent Government response to this roadmap is still needed.

Mandatory wearing of face masks in busy outdoor spaces

We are also asking that you announce face coverings will be made mandatory in all busy outdoor spaces. Many Londoners are now used to wearing face coverings, for example on public transport. This additional step will help contain the virus, especially as many people including young people, are congregating in public places given the holiday season and given the high footfall on our high streets in the run up to Christmas.

We look forward to an urgent response on the matters we have raised. It is important the above steps are taken, and our points addressed before any additional restrictions are placed on London.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Cllr Georgia Gould
Chair, London Councils

Cc Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for MHCLG
Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster & Minister for the Cabinet Office
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 21 December 2020

Dear Prime Minister

Following your announcement on Saturday to place London, the South East and parts of East of England into Tier 4 measures, and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care's suggestion that these areas can expect to remain in Tier 4 until the vaccine is rolled out, I am writing to seek urgent clarification on the next steps for expanding and accelerating the vaccination programme in areas with the highest prevalence of the virus, and to offer my full support and assistance wherever it may be required.

London's seven-day case rate has increased by over 107 per cent compared to the previous week. Whilst I recognise the seriousness of the situation and need for greater restrictions, these measures are a bitter blow to Londoners, with profound social and economic consequences. It is therefore critical that we do everything we can to get the virus under control as quickly as possible.

First, given the news yesterday of the closure of the border at Dover, I am seeking urgent assurance from you that vaccine supplies will not be disrupted and that contingency plans are in place to secure vaccine supplies on an ongoing basis. Second, I am asking for measures to be immediately put in place to expand and accelerate the roll-out to the worst affected areas of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and for plans to be concurrently developed to increase the distribution of the Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccine to these areas as soon as it is approved. Once again, I would like to offer the full support and expertise of my team at City Hall to assist in taking this forward.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has been clear that the new variant of the virus is out of control and I am gravely concerned about the risk to essential services in areas with Tier 4 status. Our NHS and care system are coming under increasing strain and this looks set to continue. We cannot fight this virus without ensuring that health and care staff are properly protected and able to work safely. I am therefore calling on you to act swiftly and decisively to put both the process and resources in place to maintain essential services, support the NHS and protect our most vulnerable people. As part of these plans I reiterate my call that as well as clinically vulnerable groups, NHS frontline staff must be vaccinated as a matter of urgent priority.

I will continue to urge Londoners to follow the rules, to stay at home and help ease the pressure in our NHS. My team and I stand ready to assist in whatever way we can. We must all pull together and rise to the challenge to deliver the Herculean effort required for the country to recover from this crisis.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 31 December 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to seek urgent clarification regarding the Government's decision to delay the reopening of primary schools in some, but not all, boroughs in London. It is my view, and that of the London Strategic Coordination Group for the COVID-19 response, that re-opening should be delayed for all London primaries until at least mid-January.

The delayed re-opening of primaries is not a decision anyone takes lightly, given the consequent disruption to our children's education and attainment. Nobody would wish to delay the re-opening of a school for a day longer than is necessary. However, the epidemic in London is in a very dangerous phase and I support the decision to listen to public health concerns and take this step.

I know you understand just how critical this moment is in our efforts to tackle this virus, the numbers of infections are still far too high in London and our NHS is under considerable strain. We must make difficult decisions now because if we do not contain this virus, I am in no doubt the result will be the deaths of many more Londoners.

Throughout this pandemic London has worked together as one system, recognising that Londoners live their lives across borough boundaries. We have been grateful for the support of both you and your ministers in this. As you will know, consultation with every level of government, including Council Leaders, Chief Executives and local Directors of Public Health, who all understand their communities, has been vital to this process. The recognised benefit of this approach has been clear messaging to all Londoners no matter where they live in the city.

Yesterday's decision to have two rules in London for the re-opening of primary schools has caused considerable confusion and, in some quarters, understandable fear and anger. There are many families in London who live in boroughs where primaries are now closed for in-person teaching but whose children attend school in a borough where primaries are currently set to open next week. We understand that ministers are keen to minimise disruption but the patchwork of school openings does the opposite of this.

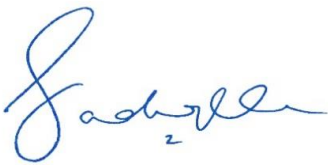
Equally, many councils, headteachers and staff alike find the decision illogical and impossible to explain to parents and families. I support the concerns of many teachers about the apparent lack of consistency, and the lack of clarity and transparency about how this decision was made.

MAYOR OF LONDON

The decision seems to have been based on data collected across the city in the past week and I am concerned that this may underestimate the infection rate, given this includes the Christmas period where testing rates were lower and data wasn't necessarily as robust as normal.

Given the confusion this decision has caused, the strength of feeling of headteachers and staff alike and the potential of this decision to cause a resurgence of the virus amongst primary-age children across London, I must ask you on behalf of Londoners to reconsider and instead delay the start of the new term for all primaries in London until at least 18 January 2021. This decision is incredibly urgent – the late announcement of this decision means that schools now have only a few days to put in place appropriate arrangements in time for the start of term early next week – so I would appreciate an answer on this matter today.

Your sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education
Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 8 January 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

The evidence that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities have experienced disproportionately high rates of deaths and critical illness during the COVID-19 pandemic has been overwhelming. I and others have repeatedly called on the Government to act to address this. As we enter the third national lockdown having seen exponential growth in cases over the past month in the capital, I write to you again to ask that you heed the lessons learned from the first wave of this virus and immediately take steps to protect those who are likely to suffer disproportionate impacts from COVID-19.

Findings from an IPPR/Runnymede report in October showed that there would have been 58,000 extra deaths during the first wave if the White population faced the same risk factors as the Black population. This is truly sobering. This came on the back of the Public Health England review of the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities, and my own rapid evidence review published earlier in the summer, which reminded us that Black Londoners are at almost twice the risk of death from COVID-19 than White Londoners, with Pakistani and Bangladeshi men facing similarly high risks. It is up to the Government to address the underlying structural causes linked to these disproportionate risks.

As we enter a new year and continue to fight this second wave of the pandemic, I call on you to take decisive action to protect BAME communities in London and around the country. All Londoners are potentially susceptible to COVID-19 and London has borne witness to the dramatic escalation in cases across the capital due to the new variant in the last three weeks. Within this there are worrying signs that case rates remain higher amongst Asian / Asian British Londoners, Black/ African / Caribbean / Black British Londoners and Londoners in the Other ethnic group than in White Londoners.

I am pleased that the Government heeded my calls from early in the pandemic to mandate the recording of ethnicity data on death certificates in England. It is vital that this is implemented now without delay. Comprehensive, good quality ethnicity data must be collected, recorded and made publicly available at a regional level, for infection rates, testing rates, positivity rates, hospital admission rates and vaccination rates, to enable robust monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 by ethnic group and to provide openness and transparency regarding the actions that are being taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities. I am sure that you understand how important it is that ethnicity data collection is comprehensive, covering as many ethnic groups as possible, particularly for a city as diverse as London, and that it is also of good quality to enable meaningful analysis to be conducted.

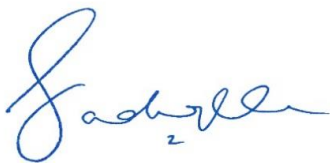
MAYOR OF LONDON

As we embark on the mass vaccination rollout, I call on the Government to immediately mandate the collection and recording of comprehensive, good quality ethnicity data in the NHS and social care. As new systems are put in place regarding testing and the delivery of vaccinations, it is vital that ethnicity data collection is embedded as an integral part of these programmes and used to inform policy and programme development nationally, regionally and locally including engagement with different community groups across London, in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities. Monitoring the effectiveness of the vaccination programme in delivering high uptake within all communities is essential to prevent widening of health inequalities caused by low uptake in particular groups. That is why it is crucial that this is put in place immediately. If it is not done, it will be clear that the lessons of the first wave about how this virus exacerbates inequalities and affects particular communities were not learned. Given what we now know about how the virus affects BAME communities, there is no excuse for continued inaction.

As we tackle the consequences of this second wave of the virus head on, and with the end of the pandemic in sight, I urge the Government, once again, to act to ensure that BAME communities in London and across the country are not disproportionately affected over the next few months, as they have been over the past year.

I look forward to your urgent response on the points raised above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 0AA

Date: 8 January 2021

Dear Prime Minister

Today I am declaring a 'major incident' in the capital due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus and the increase of Covid-19 cases in London's hospitals. I have been left with little choice if we are to protect the NHS and save Londoners' lives.

I have taken this decision in my capacity both as Mayor and as the formal Chair of the London Resilience Forum. This has also been discussed with London Borough leaders, leaders from NHS London, Public Health England and the emergency services.

Currently 7,034 people are in hospital with Covid-19 - a 35 per cent increase compared to the peak of the pandemic in April. There are around 830 admissions to London hospital trusts per day - up from around 500 before Christmas - which could rise further over the next two weeks.

The number of Covid-19 cases in London has also exceeded 1,000 per 100,000. Between 30 December and 6 January, the number of patients in London hospitals grew by 27 per cent (from 5,524 to 7,034) and the number on mechanical ventilation grew by 42 per cent (from 640 to 908). Over the last three days alone the NHS has announced 477 deaths in London hospitals following a positive test for Covid-19.

With cases rising so rapidly, our hospitals are at risk of being overwhelmed and the stark reality is that we will run out of beds for patients in the next couple of weeks unless the spread of the virus slows down drastically.

I have also taken this further step as the increased pressures on responders, combined with the impact of increasing numbers of their staff being ill or having to self-isolate, means that the existing coordination arrangements need to be further stepped-up. Hundreds of firefighters from London Fire Brigade are having to assist the London Ambulance Service by volunteering to drive ambulances - the London Ambulance Service is now taking up to 8,000 emergency calls a day, compared to 5,500 on a typical busy day.

The situation in London is now critical with the spread of the virus out of control. In light of my announcement I am therefore calling on the Government urgently to:

- provide greater financial support for Londoners who need to self-isolate and are not able to work;
- close places of worship;

MAYOR OF LONDON

- make it mandatory for face masks to be worn routinely outside of the home, including in supermarket queues and other places outside that may be crowded;
- accelerate roll-out of the vaccines across London and provide daily vaccination data by borough and ethnicity.

Londoners continue to make huge sacrifices and London's heroic doctors, nurses and NHS staff are doing an amazing job, but if action is not taken now our NHS could be overwhelmed and more people will die from Covid-19.

I look forward to an urgent response on the points raised above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc Paul Scully MP, Minister for London
Sir Edward Lister, 10 Downing Street

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London SE1 2AA
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London Councils
59½ Southwark Street
London SE1 0AL
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The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 12 January 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

On Friday a major incident was declared in London in response to the increase of Covid-19 cases, but as we have seen this weekend, with many people gathering in close proximity outdoors, tighter restrictions are necessary if we are to contain the virus, reduce pressure on the NHS and the emergency services and save Londoners' lives.

There has been a lot of discussion over recent days about non-compliance with current restrictions but, even if people are largely complying with the current restrictions, they are not tight enough. Given the epidemic is worse than it was in March, and the pressure on our hospitals is higher, the restrictions need to be much tighter, particularly given the transmissibility of the new variant of Covid.

As set out in the letter to you on Friday these are the further restrictions, akin to those in place in March and April, that we ask to be introduced immediately:

- closing places of worship;
- making it mandatory for face masks to be worn routinely outside of the home, including in supermarket queues, on high streets and other outdoor places that may be crowded;
- providing greater financial support for Londoners who need to self-isolate and are not able to work, supported by scaled up key worker asymptomatic testing;
- accelerating roll-out of the vaccines across London and providing daily vaccination data by borough and ethnicity.

As London Government, we recognise how difficult these decisions are and how they will impose further tough restrictions on Londoners. Places of worship are crucially important for communities and we wouldn't be making this request if the situation wasn't very serious. With new levels of infection remaining high we are left with little choice but to ask that you implement them. It is also why we are asking you to consider further temporary measures in addition to those proposed above, including:

- urgently reviewing the list of what is currently classed as 'essential retail' and closing 'non-essential retail', while ensuring businesses that have to close, and their employees have access to Government financial support schemes so no jobs are lost;

- stricter guidance on retailers avoiding unsafe queues, crowding or mixing;
- prohibiting large non-essential retail chains from operating click and collect services;
- stronger guidance to restrict the size of weddings, receptions, wakes, funerals and burials.

We know from the first lockdown of the severe impact isolation can and continues to have on mental health. We therefore welcome the Government's commitment to retain support bubbles and nor do we believe there should be any restrictions placed on allowing people to exercise with one other person once a day outdoors, as long as they follow social distancing measures.

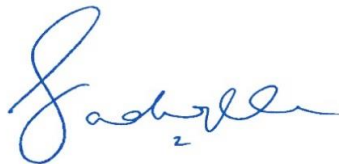
London government stands ready to do all in our power to support the vaccination rollout and the Government's UK Covid-19 Vaccines Delivery Plan that was announced yesterday. However, we urge you to look again at the formula for the distribution of the vaccine that will leave London, with a population of 9 million, and other major conurbations with fewer vaccines per head of population compared to less densely populated regions. Currently each Primary Care Network (PCN) in England is receiving an equal distribution of vaccines, despite the huge variations in the size of the populations PCNs serve. We call on you to review this formula and urgently scale up vaccine distribution in London.

While vaccinating the first four priority cohorts should bring down the mortality rate over the next few weeks and months, it is not possible to roll out the vaccine to the further five priority groups in the same timeframe. Yet it is these younger groups, the 40 to 60 year olds, that are presenting at hospitals in large numbers. It is also this group which is spending longer in hospital because they are less likely to die from the virus, but require longer hospital treatment to recover. Our NHS is unable to cope with this level of demand for this duration and ultimately it will end in everyone's health suffering. That's why the need to move quickly to suppress the virus is so great.

The measures we are asking for would need to be kept under regular review, but if they are not introduced as a matter of urgency then we fear that the transmission of the virus will continue to spread across the capital, putting unsustainable strain on our NHS and public services.

We urge you to take swift action or Londoners health and the economy will both suffer immeasurably as a result.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Cllr Georgia Gould
Chair, London Councils

Cc Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, DHSC Secretary of State
Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, MHCLG Secretary of State
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 1 March 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Last week the London Covid Business Forum came together to discuss the Government's roadmap out of the lockdown.

We welcome the roadmap, which provides more information for Londoners about what the next few months may look like if we continue to make progress in reducing the spread of the virus. The health of individuals and the health of our businesses are intertwined.

It is important that lessons are learnt from previous lockdowns and we are committed to doing everything in our power to support businesses to survive this crisis and to ensure that London maintains its global pre-eminence as a centre for international business, culture and tourism. To give London's businesses the best chance of being able to survive, recover and reopen when it's their turn, they need ongoing support, more detail, and further reassurance now.

For many businesses which fall into the latter timeline of the roadmap, any semblance of reopening in an economically viable way is still many months away. As the beginning of the new financial year approaches, businesses are making decisions now about the future of their businesses, including making decisions that directly impact their employees.

We therefore urge you to immediately prioritise the following urgent steps:

- Continue business support for as long as social distancing restrictions remain in place;
- Confirm the continuation of the furlough scheme;
- Confirm an extension to the business rates holiday for retail, leisure, childcare, and hospitality businesses, that was due to end in March 2021 to end of 2021;
- Confirm an extension to the reduced 5% VAT rate for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions, currently due to end 31 March 2021 to end of 2021.

The Central Activities Zone (CAZ) acts as the engine room to the city. The safe reopening of Central London will be fundamental to the long-term future prosperity of the capital. London has always benefitted from huge levels of both domestic and international tourism – but that has virtually dried up due to the pandemic.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Recent analysis showed that over the course of 2020 visitors from overseas and the rest of the UK spent nearly £11 billion less than in 2019. Last week, the Mayor announced a proposal to invest a further £5m to support the reopening of central London. This will include a brand-new drive to attract Londoners and UK tourists back to hard-hit retail, hospitality and cultural venues.

London's vital visitor attractions have not been able to benefit from the majority of 2020's bank holidays. To make the most of the gradual reopening through the spring and summer, the GLA and key stakeholders are working towards building key moments of activation that showcase central London's public spaces and cultural icons.

To give the biggest boost to the economy and to maximise on the opportunity of reopening, we are calling on the Government to:

- Invest in the city centre recovery with, at a minimum, match funding the Mayor's £5m investment into reopening the London economy.
- Agree to an additional bank holiday in September, as proposed by industry organisations such as the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions.

We all stand ready to work alongside you to ensure that London once again returns to its pre-pandemic levels of prosperity.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Baroness Bull
Vice President & Vice Principal (London), King's College London

Richard Burge
Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

John Dickie
Director of Strategy & Policy, London First

Bernard Donoghue
Director, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions

Sam Gurney
Regional Secretary, TUC London, East and South East

Rowena Howie
London Policy Chair, FSB

Millie Kendall MBE
Chief Executive Officer, British Beauty Council

Michael Kill
Chief Executive Officer, Night Time Industries Association

MAYOR OF LONDON

Professor Angus Knowles-Cutler CC FRSA

Deputy Chair, the London Economic Action Partnership

Emma McClarkin

Chief Executive, British Beer & Pub Association

Ojay McDonald

CEO, Association of Town and City Management

Catherine McGuinness

Policy Chair, City of London Corporation

Ros Morgan

Chief Executive, Heart of London Business Alliance

Kate Nicholls

Chief Executive, UKHospitality

Caroline Norbury MBE

Chief Executive, Creative Industries Federation

Simon Pitkeathley

Chief Executive Officer, Camden Town Unlimited & Chair, Transition Board Business Reopening Strategy Group

Don Randall, MBE,

Chief Executive Don Randall Associates Ltd

Sir Peter Rogers

Chairman, New West End Company

Matthew Sims

Chief Executive, Croydon Town Centre Business Improvement District Ltd

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 5 March 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Following the publication of the Levelling Up Fund prospectus, I am asking that you urgently publish the methodology that was used to categorise the most deprived areas being prioritised for the £4.8bn funding under this scheme.

Using your current formula only two London boroughs have been given priority status – a decision that frankly beggars belief given London has many of the most deprived wards in the UK. As a consequence, London boroughs, such as Tower Hamlets, will be missing out on funding. This is blatantly unfair and another example of the Government's growing anti-London behaviour.

I fully support levelling up parts of the country that have been left behind, but equally London's deprived communities must not be overlooked. According to GLA analysis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation – the standard measure of deprivation or poverty – 14 London boroughs should be in 'priority one' for levelling up – not just two. Whatever formula you are using, it appears completely flawed, as more affluent areas outside of London are being prioritised for funding over deprived parts of the capital, such as the Chancellor's constituency of Richmond, North Yorkshire, which has been designated 'priority one', despite ranking 251 out of 317 on the deprivation list.

London has some of the greatest income and wealth inequalities in the UK, with stark inequalities in both health and life expectancy. These have been made even worse by the impact of the Covid pandemic, which has left thousands of Londoners out of work and more claiming Universal Credit than in any other region in the UK. The levelling up challenge within London is as great, if not greater than any levelling up challenge between the regions. Despite this, the formula you are using chooses to ignore completely the poverty and deprivation that still exists in the country's capital city.

As I have repeatedly said, levelling up must not mean levelling down the capital. That would only make us all poorer. I request that you urgently publish the funding formula so that Londoners can understand how your Government makes these decisions, and why their communities are set to miss out.

MAYOR OF LONDON

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

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 11 June 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

London's leading business leaders and I continue to meet regularly as part of our COVID Business Forum. We welcomed the Government's roadmap. It offers a route back to a more normal life for us all. And we appreciate that the health of individuals and the health of our businesses are interconnected. We know that it's better to act early, rather than too late.

The latest available data shows the four tests set out in the Government's roadmap have been met in London, and it isn't clear why our city shouldn't relax restrictions further on 21 June. The rollout of the vaccine programme has been a huge success – with over eight million doses now administered to Londoners.

Any delay to re-opening on 21 June will have severe consequences for businesses who have suffered so much already. As long as social distancing is in place, London's hospitality, nightlife and cultural sectors, which have been hardest hit by the pandemic, will remain unable to reopen or fully reopen in an economically viable way. These vital components of London's vibrant history and global reputation, some of which have been closed since March 2020, are at risk of catastrophic collapse.

We are committed to doing everything in our power to support our city and our businesses to survive this crisis and to ensure that London maintains its global pre-eminence as a centre for international business, culture, nightlife and tourism. To give London's businesses the best chance of being able to survive; they need ongoing support, reassurance – and they need to fully reopen on 21 June.

If restrictions are extended beyond 21 June, we urge ministers to extend the 100 per cent business rates holiday; and the business evictions moratorium for a commensurate period beyond the end of June.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

John Dickie

Chief Executive, London First

MAYOR OF LONDON

Bernard Donoghue

Director, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions and Co-chair of London Tourism Recovery Board

Millie Kendall MBE

Chief Executive Officer, British Beauty Council

Michael Kill

Chief Executive Officer, Night Time Industries Association

Asma Khan

Chef and Owner of Darjeeling Express

Professor Angus Knowles-Cutler CC FRSA

Deputy Chair, the London Economic Action Partnership

Kate Nicholls

Chief Executive, UKHospitality

Simon Pitkeathley

Chief Executive Officer, Camden Town Unlimited & Chair, Transition Board Business Reopening Strategy Group

Sir Peter Rogers

Chairman, New West End Company

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 11 June 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

As we approach the fourth anniversary of the tragic Grenfell Tower fire and the devastating loss of 72 men, women and children, my thoughts are with the bereaved, survivors and community of North Kensington. I know they feel disappointed by the lack of progress to meet promises made since the fire.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

The Grenfell Inquiry continues to reveal shocking evidence of a failed regulatory system and an industry with an embedded culture that puts profits before public safety. This is a poisonous culture for which I know you agree, change is long overdue.

Disappointingly, the Inquiry's Phase 1 recommendations that require Government action and legislation are yet to be implemented. It is vital that urgent action is taken as delays in implementation may cost lives. It is encouraging to see, since my letter to you on the third anniversary calling for greater transparency around Government action, recent Government quarterly updates on the progress of implementation.

INQUEST, the independent charity, has repeatedly called for a national oversight mechanism to ensure official recommendations from inquiries and inquests are systematically followed up. I urge the Government to accept this proposal and signal a clear commitment to providing certainty and justice to bereaved families.

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

I am concerned that four years on, there are still six households that have not been permanently housed. Furthermore, I have heard concerns from some bereaved families that they have still not been able to access the Grenfell Recovery Fund. Given the final report from the Independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce stated 'The Council has further to go in demonstrating pace, changing its culture and improving its relationship with the wider community' I believe the Taskforce was prematurely disbanded. I therefore urge you to consider reinstating it without delay, to ensure the Council is independently scrutinised and subject to annual reviews.

Social housing

The institutional indifference towards social housing tenants evident at Grenfell Tower is too often mirrored in social housing throughout the country. As evidence from the Grenfell Inquiry continues to emerge, the importance of placing resident voices at the heart of decision-making by councils and housing associations is clear. Your Social Housing White Paper set out policies that could achieve this with cross-sector support. However, I echo the disappointment of the bereaved, survivors and residents that the Queen's Speech did not commit to legislate for this. I hope that you will heed these concerns and bring the policies from this White Paper into law as soon as possible.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Building safety

Thousands of people remain trapped in unsafe blocks around the country and the recent fire at New Providence Wharf serves as a stark reminder of the cost of delays in remediating buildings with combustible materials. I of course welcome your commitment to provide £3.5 billion extra funding towards cladding remediation in residential buildings which will go some way to helping a proportion of those leaseholders living in buildings over 18 metres in height.

For the many leaseholders not eligible for funding the question is not just is their home safe, but will they be bankrupted to make it so? The forthcoming Building Safety Bill provides a once in a generation opportunity to put things right for leaseholders. I am firm in my pledge to work with you on solutions to deliver your commitment that no leaseholder should have to pay for the unaffordable costs of fixing fire safety defects they did not cause.

I have called for a long-term funding solution which protects all leaseholders from the cost of remediating unsafe buildings of any height or type of safety defect. I urge you to reconsider your proposal for loans for leaseholders in buildings below 18 metres, which would create a leaseholder lottery based on building height and may have a damaging impact on the property market. I have previously called for a ground-breaking levy on major private property developers to fund vital building safety work and I therefore welcome your consultation on a residential developer tax.

I was extremely concerned to read that new buildings, including schools, under 18 metres with combustible materials, continue to be built across the country. As I have argued since August 2018, the current ban on combustible materials should be extended to all new buildings no matter their height or use.

As Mayor of London, I have taken significant action to protect Londoners' safety. New homes on GLA land commissioned via my development panel are now required to meet higher standards than the Building Regulations, including a requirement for sprinklers in all purpose-built blocks of flats and a complete ban on combustible materials on the external walls of buildings regardless of height. The same requirements have also been introduced for new homes funded by my new Affordable Homes Programme. My new London Plan introduces fire safety considerations into the planning application stage, ensuring that safety is considered from the very beginning of a building's lifecycle.

There are many whose lives will never be the same after Grenfell; they deserve justice and accountability. They also deserve to be assured that what happened to them will not happen to anyone else. These assurances can only be given through actions and not words. I commend the dignity and strength of the bereaved, survivors and residents as they continue to campaign and fight for justice and public safety. I stand with them and I stand ready to work with you to achieve the systemic change that is needed.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 23 July 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

The London Covid Business Forum – which brings together leading business organisations and London government – continues to meet regularly, most recently on 21 July.

With restrictions being lifted we feel there is an urgent need to outline a more considered approach from the Government on the rules for self-isolation if people are alerted by the NHS Covid app.

Case rates are rising in our communities, and the app lets people know if they have been exposed to Covid so they can take appropriate action to protect themselves and others. Ministers must urgently clarify the rules.

We acknowledge that test, trace and isolate is still a key tool to bringing this third wave under control; however, the biggest issue raised at our recent Forum was the ‘pingdemic’ and the continuing mixed messages from ministers around self-isolation.

Many hospitality businesses, such as pubs and restaurants, are already struggling with staff shortages. These shortages have been exacerbated, in some cases leading to temporary closure, by large numbers of employees being simultaneously advised to isolate by the NHS Covid app. The summer months are crucial for many businesses’ recovery and their ability to recover must not be put in jeopardy.

We are therefore calling on you to ensure that the necessary testing is in place to enable people who have been double vaccinated for longer than two weeks and pinged by the NHS Covid app, to immediately return to work, following a negative PCR test, rather than having to self-isolate.

It is vital that both employers and employees retain faith in the NHS Covid app to help prevent the spread of the virus and further damage to London’s economy, and that is why we hope you will give urgent consideration to our request.

MAYOR OF LONDON

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

Baroness Deborah Bull

Vice President & Vice-Principal (London) & Senior Advisory Fellow for Culture, King's College London

Richard Burge

Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

John Dickie

Chief Executive, London First

Bernard Donoghue

Director, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions and Co-chair of London Tourism Recovery Board

Rowena Howie

London Policy Chair, Federation of Small Businesses

Millie Kendall MBE

Chief Executive Officer, British Beauty Council

Professor Angus Knowles-Cutler CC FRSA

Deputy Chair, the London Economic Action Partnership

Kate Nicholls

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Simon Pitkeathley

Chief Executive Officer, Camden Town Unlimited & Chair, Transition Board Business Reopening Strategy Group

Sir Peter Rogers

Chairman, New West End Company



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 June 2021

Thank you for your letter of 11 June, sharing concerns from the London COVID Business Forum regarding a delayed move to Step 4 of our roadmap on 21 June.

I am very proud of the UK's COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and that over 44 million people have now received at least one vaccine dose. It is thanks to the collective national effort and our fantastic NHS staff that we can now offer initial vaccine doses to all adults aged 18 and over and that we were able to move to Step 3 in a timely manner.

However, as data continues to suggest that the new Delta variant could be 40 to 80 per cent more transmissible than previous variants, we have taken the decision to delay moving to Step 4 on our roadmap. I am grateful to businesses in London for their ongoing support and commitment to following the Government's COVID-19 guidance.

On London specifically, I would draw your attention to the fact that, in the week up to 16 June, there was a 17 per cent increase in COVID-19 cases in the city. While we are making every effort to accelerate the roll-out of both first and second doses of the vaccine in response to the spread of the Delta variant, I am sure you can appreciate the fact that we must only proceed with Step 4 of the roadmap when it is safe to do so, and broach any change to regulations with caution.

I appreciate that the delay to move to Step 4 presents challenges to businesses. This is why, in the Budget, we extended most COVID-19 financial support into the autumn, in acknowledgement that there could be uncertainty over the path to the end of restrictions. The furlough scheme will continue until the end of September, with the Government continuing to pay the vast majority of wages. Government support will remain fixed at 80 per cent of salaries (up to £2,500 per month) until July, from which point we will then ask for a small employer contribution of 10 per cent.

We also announced plans to extend the five per cent reduced rate of VAT for goods and services supplied by the tourism and hospitality sector for a further six months until the end of September. The rate will then increase to 12.5 per cent from October until the end of March 2022, before returning to the normal 20 per cent rate from April 2022. The 100 per cent business rates holiday for businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors was extended to June 2021. From July, businesses will receive 66 per cent relief, up to a cap, for the following nine months.

Moreover, I am pleased to say that on 16 June the Government announced its intention to introduce new legislation to ring-fence commercial rent arrears accrued during the pandemic. Landlords are expected to make allowances for the ringfenced rent arrears and share the financial impact with tenants, and the legislation will go further to include measures to help tenants and landlords reach agreement on how to handle the money owed. The existing measures in place to protect commercial tenants from eviction have also been extended for a full nine months to March 2022, to ensure that those sectors who are unable to open, and businesses who are unable to pay their rent, have time to come to an agreement without the threat of eviction. This special scheme recognises the unprecedented challenges the pandemic has placed on businesses and will help to preserve jobs and livelihoods across sectors affected.

I hope this letter serves to address some of your concerns and I thank you, once again, for writing. Please do share this response with your co-signatories.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sadiq Khan', written in a cursive style.

The Mayor of London



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 August 2021

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 11 June about the action Government is taking in response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

The fourth anniversary of the fire was a poignant time. My thoughts are very much with the survivors, the bereaved and all those affected by the terrible events which unfolded in June 2017.

We are implementing the recommendations from the first phase of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. As you recognise, we are publishing quarterly updates and each of the 46 recommendations will be published on the Fire England website. For those recommendations requiring a change in the law, Parliament has passed the Fire Safety Act 2021. We will be implementing regulations in the autumn, subject to the Parliamentary timetable and consultation on important issues on Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans for vulnerable residents.

All but six of the 195 households made homeless in the tragedy have now moved into new permanent homes, with the remaining six in high quality temporary accommodation. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is working with them to find permanent homes at a pace that suits them. The council is using the £50 million in its Grenfell Recovery Fund to deliver its Recovery Strategy for the community in North Kensington. Part of this funding directly supports the bereaved and survivors through their Dedicated Service. If you know of families who qualify but have been unable to access the service, I urge you to bring this directly to the Council's attention. The Government continues to support and challenge Kensington and Chelsea in delivering recovery in the local community, and I receive regular updates from my own Independent Adviser on Grenfell, Nick Hurd.

Beyond Grenfell, it is important that people who are bereaved are supported and given a proper voice. We have made progress in several areas in respect of the inquest processes, and will be considering proposals on how to build on this. Looking forward, our Charter for Social Housing Residents will improve the lives of countless residents by rebalancing the relationship between landlord and tenant. This will provide faster and more effective redress, and ensuring tenants are empowered to engage with landlords and have stronger consumer protections.

On building safety reform, I can assure you that our package of legislative changes should ensure the problems identified with the previous regime are rectified. This includes changes we have already introduced through the building regulations on combustibility and sprinklers, the Fire Safety Act 2021 and changes to the Fire Safety Order.

Measures in the Building Safety Bill which, as you will have seen, was recently introduced to Parliament, will implement the reforms recommended by Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review. This bill is a significant step toward greater oversight of high-rise residential buildings during development, construction and occupation which should ensure a tragedy like Grenfell cannot happen again.

Our unprecedented £5 billion grant investment is protecting hundreds of thousands of leaseholders in high rise buildings from the cost of remediating unsafe cladding, with nine out of ten buildings with Aluminium Composite Material cladding now either remediated or undergoing work to remove the cladding. Our approach prioritises high rise buildings where the risk is greater to multiple households when fire spreads.

For lower-rise blocks of flats, the risk profile is different, but the Government is providing a generous financing scheme to ensure no leaseholder pays more than £50 per month for the removal of unsafe cladding from these buildings. We are also introducing a new levy and tax on developers to ensure the industry contributes to the cost of cladding remediation.

We remain committed to ensuring the permanent safety of tower block residents. It continues to be my view that building owners and developers need to step up and contribute to protect leaseholders, and we will continue to take action to ensure that those responsible for these buildings undertake remediation work as quickly as possible. On schools specifically, I can assure you that all new school building projects must comply with building regulations, including on fire safety.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write. I welcome your commitment to fire safety together with the GLA's support for Government's remediation programmes and legislative reforms.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', written in a cursive style.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 October 2021

**WELCOME TO GLASGOW BREAKFAST RECEPTION,
TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER, 8 AM, CLYDESIDE DISTILLERY**

It is my honour to invite you to join me and the First Minister of Scotland for a breakfast reception to welcome you to Glasgow.

Taking place on the morning of 2 November, the event will provide a moment for the whole of the UK to welcome you to COP26. The First Minister of Scotland and I will be joined by the First Ministers of Wales and Northern Ireland, the deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland and the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, all united in our commitment to the summit's success.

With invitations extended to selected Heads of State and Government, this event will showcase how we can all work together to keep 1.5 degrees in reach. It will illustrate the range of ambition and joint work across the nations of the UK, to both inspire and support leaders and governments at all levels to work in an integrated and ambitious way to achieve climate outcomes.

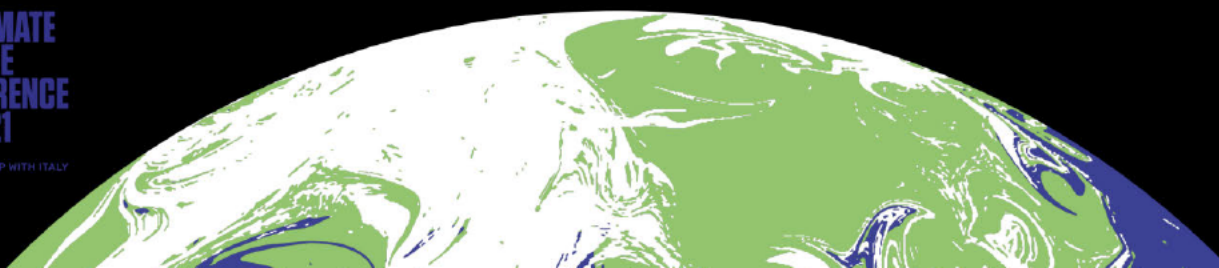
To RSVP, please send your full name, dietary and accessibility requirements to [REDACTED] by **12pm Thursday 28 October**. We will send further details about the programme and arrangements for this event in due course.

In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming you to Glasgow and to COP26.

The Mayor of London

**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 16 December 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as the London Covid Business Forum to urge the Government to provide additional support for businesses impacted by rising cases of the Omicron variant and “Plan B” measures coming into force.

Due to Londoners, commuters and visitors to London taking extra precautions, businesses in London in the retail, hospitality, and cultural sectors are already suffering, with takings immediately affected by a reduction in office workers following Government advice to work from home if possible.

A 25 per cent surge in Christmas bookings being cancelled has already been reported, there has been a 26 per cent drop in TfL usage week on week, and central London has seen a significant drop in footfall across the city. UK Hospitality has forecast that takings will be down by as much as 40 per cent for December, usually the most lucrative month for venues.

Retail, hospitality, leisure, cultural businesses and night time venues were banking on pre-Christmas sales after an extremely challenging and volatile 20 months. We currently face a ‘worst of all worlds’ whereby businesses are being very adversely affected; but without the benefit of support that existed during the previous total and partial lockdowns in 2020 and 2021.

Businesses are also being affected by staff shortages due to rising case rates and isolation, shutting theatre shows across the West End. West End theatre is a major driver for tourism – 22 million people attend each year. These shows have taken enormous financial risks to get back on stage and are not covered by the Live Events Reinsurance Scheme. The Society of London Theatres is concerned that the scheme is not working for the sector because it applies to an entire run, not specific dates; it covers mandated closures rather than ticket losses due to social distancing requirements or the effects of illness and isolation on cast and crew; and, as of this week, it now takes eight weeks to apply, preventing theatres from responding quickly to changing needs. Consequently, theatres are not taking up the offer of the scheme.

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Government acted quickly during the last winter lockdown with additional support for businesses. We therefore urge the Government to consider the following measures to support hospitality, retail and cultural businesses, and their supply chains during this challenging period:

- Full business relief for the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors to be reintroduced until March 2022 and an extension of the VAT relief (currently 12.5%) for hospitality, accommodation and certain attractions beyond March 2022;
- Additional funds for Local Authorities to enable them to provide grants to businesses affected by new guidance; existing allocations of the Additional Restrictions Grant have largely already been spent or are committed via contractual agreements;
- To urgently address the limitations of the current Live Events Reinsurance Scheme to produce a scheme that is fit for purpose;
- An extension or further stage of the Culture Recovery Fund, available as soon as possible to support cultural businesses affected;
- Ensure all freelance and self-employed workers are fully included in any future support, as many were excluded from the original Self-Employed Income Support Scheme;
- To reintroduce the Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate scheme;
- To commit to keep the support under review and bring in new measures if further restrictions are required; or if the existing working from home guidance continues beyond the immediate period; and
- To ensure any further guidance or restrictions that may be required to protect the public and NHS are proportionate and supported by evidence.

We look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

Julian Bird

Chief Executive, Society of London Theatre & UK Theatre

Julie Brown

Chief Operating and Financial Officer, Burberry

Victoria Brownlie

Chief Policy Officer, British Beauty Council

Baroness Deborah Bull

CrossBench Peer, House of Lords

John Dickie

Chief Executive, London First

Bernard Donoghue

Co-Chair London Tourism Recovery Board and CEO of Association of Leading Visitor Attractions

MAYOR OF LONDON

Asma Khan

Restaurateur, Founder, Darjeeling Express

Mike Kill

Chief Executive, Night Times Industries Association

Angus Knowles-Cutler

Vice Chair, London Economic Action Partnership

Emma McClarkin

Chief Executive, British Beer & Pub Association

Ojay McDonald

CEO, Association of Town and City Management;

Kate Nicholls

Chief Executive, UKHospitality

Simon Pitkeathley

Chief Executive Officer, Camden Town Unlimited

Sir Peter Rogers

Chairman New West End Company

Matthew Sims

Chief Executive, Croydon Town Centre Business Improvement District

Jace Tyrrell

Chair, Association of International Retail

cc Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

Date: 17 December 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

The rapid spread of the Omicron variant in London is of huge concern. Within a few weeks, London has gone from the region with the lowest case rate to that with the highest in the country, and the number of cases is accelerating alarmingly quickly across all age ranges, such is the growth advantage of the new variant.

London recorded 59,379 new cases in the past seven days, with 23,371 of these being reported in the last 24 hour period. Hospitalisations are also on the increase, up by 26% from last week, which is putting severe pressure on our already over stretched health service and those who work in it. Staff absences in the NHS and other frontline services – due to Covid-19 infection, the need to care for dependents or other illnesses – are already causing challenges and look set to worsen rapidly and become a significant issue, not only for the NHS but for our other public services. We are also seeing Omicron outbreaks in a number of settings, including care homes, prisons and amongst a number of inclusion health groups, including rough sleepers.

Lessons must be learned from the first wave of Covid-19 in how we tackle the spread of the now dominant strain of this new variant. I am doing all I can to urge Londoners to get vaccinated and for those who are eligible to have their booster. London now has a record number of sites delivering the Covid-19 vaccines, and thanks to the tremendous efforts of the NHS and other partners we have seen record numbers of Londoners take up the vaccine this week. I remain in regular and close contact with NHS London, the UK Health Security Agency and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Yet given the spread of the Omicron variant across the capital, it is vital that you work hand in glove with London government to address this escalating crisis.

The high level of infection is not only putting pressure on the NHS, our GPs and pharmacies, but on London's economy. Yesterday I wrote to you, along with members of the London Covid Business Forum, to set out the support we desperately need to help businesses and their employees. I am reiterating that call for the government to recognise and act on the impact the Omicron variant is having on our hospitality, culture, tourism, retail and leisure industries, particularly in this 'golden quarter' period.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Party politics plays no part when dealing with a public health and economic crisis such as this. I am therefore again seeking an urgent discussion, as has been held with the leaders of the devolved nations, on action the government is planning to undertake to address the spread of the Omicron variant in the capital, and how we can best work together to minimise its impact.

I would welcome a response today, such is the urgency of the situation.

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 Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Paul Scully MP, Minister for London

MAYOR OF LONDON

Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 6 May 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing ahead of the Queen's speech to urge you to take immediate action to ease the cost of living crisis for 2.4 million Londoners by devolving the powers to me to introduce rent control in London. If we do not act urgently to protect renters, spiralling rents could soon translate into a devastating homelessness crisis.

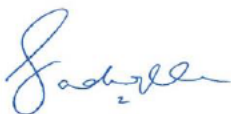
The latest statistics on rents are stark. According to Rightmove, average asking rents in London in Q1 of 2022 hit a new record of £2,193 pcm which is a 14.3 per cent rise from the same time last year. This is the biggest annual jump of any region since records began. The Homelet rental index for March 2022 shows that renters in London are now spending 34.6 per cent of their income on rent. This coincides with an energy price increase of almost £700, with further increases to come, and the rapid inflation in the cost of everyday essentials.

I have repeatedly asked for the powers to design and implement a system of rent control for London which would help to reduce the financial pressure on renters without choking off supply. The Queen's Speech is an opportunity to commit to this, but such a system will take time to introduce. In the meantime, I urge you to implement a two-year rent freeze to relieve the pressure on already-stretched renters. Figures published by City Hall in March suggest this would save struggling Londoners almost £3000 on average.

Your recent Levelling Up white paper extends the offer of further devolution to cities like London, which I warmly welcome. I am asking for new powers to support private renters, including by raising standards in the rental market through property licensing. I also welcome the government's commitment to ending section 21, introducing open-ended tenancies and creating a public national landlord register. I look forward to seeing more detail in the forthcoming Renters Reform white paper. However, affordability is clearly the most urgent issue facing the majority of renters, and currently the government remains silent on this issue.

I am asking you to take the action necessary to prevent a major crisis now and to work with me to build a better London for everyone. Together we can protect some of the most vulnerable people in our society from the worst that is yet to come.

Yours sincerely,

**Sadiq Khan**

Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

Date: 1 June 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

Two weeks ago, when we joined the ceremonial opening of the Elizabeth line by Her Majesty the Queen, I was proud to be part of the culmination of decades of collaborative work between successive London and central governments. Two weeks later, however, Transport for London (TfL) has been forced into launching a consultation on something that none of us should be proud of: cuts to London's iconic bus network.

The conditions set by the Government through the emergency funding deals that TfL required to keep operating during the pandemic included reducing the extent of the bus network by four per cent. TfL has worked hard to identify how to make these changes in the least damaging way, but meeting your conditions requires them to cut 21 routes.

This flies in the face of your ambitious Bus Back Better strategy, and is a clear example of levelling down, not levelling up. Fewer buses in London means fewer jobs in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Yorkshire where our buses are made, and less investment in the new bus technology that we need to tackle the climate emergency. You say you want London-style transport networks in other parts of the country. Cutting services in London is the wrong way to achieve this. Millions of Londoners rely on buses to get around the city every day, and these difficult decisions that TfL is being forced to make will make their lives harder.

TfL's current funding deal runs out later this month. Yet the government has still to propose the additional long-term capital funding that you were due to set out in March. So as things stand, TfL will be forced to start enacting its managed decline scenario. That would mean an additional 80 bus routes cut (an overall 18 per cent reduction), and a nine per cent reduction in tube services, equivalent to closing an entire line. Just weeks after opening the Elizabeth line, to be faced with the possible closure of another is simply unconscionable.

At the launch of the Elizabeth line, you announced that we need to turn our attention to Crossrail 2. I completely agree. However, in October 2020, the Government's funding deal disbanded the Crossrail 2 team. This was despite years of joint working between TfL and the Department for Transport (DfT), including five Business Case submissions. To progress Crossrail 2, we need to safeguard the route. Yet TfL have been waiting for two years for comments from the DfT on the Memorandum of Understanding required to take this forward, despite it being a condition of your funding deals.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I share your view that we need to get on with Crossrail 2 – and with the Bakerloo line extension too – and that we need better bus services both in London and across the country. But the Government's treatment of TfL has worked against these shared ambitions every step of the way, instead requiring us to make significant cuts to our services.

Over the next few weeks I urge you to get your teams around the table and engage with TfL and City Hall in good faith so that we can finally agree a fair, longer-term funding deal that will protect London's transport network – for the sake of the capital and the whole country.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

Cc Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

Date: 9 June 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, I am deeply concerned at the lack of wholesale systemic and cultural change that has been accomplished to date. I am fearful that many of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's vital recommendations may go unimplemented.

Half a decade on from the devastating loss of 72 people, we should be operating in a different world – where fire safety is prioritised and embedded, rules and regulations are ambitious and rigorous, guidance is clear and comprehensive, and industry is responsible and highly-skilled.

Not only are we a long way away from that world but, following the decision on Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) and other broken promises, the direction of travel appears to be moving backwards. I am deeply concerned that the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry may follow those from the Lakanal House tragedy and become just another missed opportunity for change.

On that night at Grenfell Tower, 41 per cent of disabled residents died. None of them had been given a plan for an emergency. The Inquiry in its Phase 1 report recognised this serious omission and made a life-saving recommendation for PEEPs to be required in law. I am alarmed by government's recent refusal to implement this recommendation.

This decision begs the question: what is the point of inquests and inquiries if they are simply going to be ignored? The independent charity INQUEST has long been calling for the establishment of a National Oversight Mechanism, an arms-length public body with a duty to collate, analyse and monitor recommendations and their implementation arising from post death investigations. As I have before, I urge you to act on this suggestion.

The Grenfell bereaved, survivors and residents deserve truth and change. The Inquiry is uncovering the truth of what happened but only those in power can drive and deliver long-lasting change. The London Fire Brigade has worked to implement 26 of the 29 recommendations the Inquiry set for it in Phase 1, with work ongoing to implement the final three. Now we need government to show the same commitment.

MAYOR OF LONDON

The bereaved, survivors and residents have spent five long years on their fight for truth, justice, accountability, and change, all while grieving their loss and trying to rebuild their lives. I pay tribute to them and stand in solidarity with them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London