GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

Our reference: MGLA020822-6424

Date: 17 October 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 1 August 2022. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please accept our apologies for the late response.

You requested:

> *I am writing to submit a freedom of information request. I would be grateful if you would respond to to the below questions.*
> *How many functions where alcohol was served did the Mayor host in 2020/21?*
> *How many functions where alcohol was served did the Mayor host in 2021/22?*
> *Please release details of the Mayor's official evening engagements in 2020/21?*
> *Please release details of the Mayor's official evening engagements in 2021/22?*
> *How much did the Mayor incur in travel expenses in 2020/21?*
> *How much did the Mayor incur in travel expenses in 2021/22?*

Our response:

I can confirm that the GLA holds information within the scope of your request.

***How many functions where alcohol was served did the Mayor host in 2020/21?***
***How many functions where alcohol was served did the Mayor host in 2021/22?***

None (0) in financial year 2020/21.
Four (4) in financial year 2021/22.

***Please release details of the Mayor's official evening engagements in 2020/21?***
***Please release details of the Mayor's official evening engagements in 2021/22?***

In line with our publication scheme, the Mayor's diary is published on our website twice a year.

https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/publication-scheme/mayor-londons-diary

The Mayor's key engagements are also published in the Mayor's report which forms part the meeting papers at each Mayor's Question Time:

https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/mayor-london/mayors-reports-assembly

Section 22 of the FOI Act provides an exemption for information that is intended to be published in the future. Information is exempt if, at the time when the public authority receives a request for it:
- the public authority holds the requested information;
- the public authority intends the information to be published at some future date, whether that date is determined or not;
- and in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information until its planned publication.

Section 22 acknowledges that public authorities must have freedom to be able to determine their own publication timetables. This allows them to deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication. It is however necessary to consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and withholding the information until the publication date), is greater than the public interest in releasing the information before thisdate.

In this instance, it is felt that there is a greater public interest for the GLA to keep to its original timetable of disclosure. The decision to publish the Mayor's diary on a six month basis was made in order to allow the Mayor's office to effectively manage their workload and the work required to prepare such a large amount of information for publication.

The decision to proactively publish the Mayor's diary demonstrates the GLA's commitment to openness and transparency and we believe a six month publication cycle for this information is appropriate. The public interest in the release of the Mayor's meetings and key engagements is also met by the more regular publication of the Mayor's report.

The public interest - i.e. the best interests of the public - is met by the GLA being open and transparent, but also by managing its resources effectively, and this includes setting reasonable publication schedules to meet this public interest. While there is an obvious public interest in the release of the Mayor's diary, we believe this is met by our intention to publish information about key engagements within a month.

We do not believe the public interest favours the disruption that would be caused to GLA staff by expediting this publication when its early publication would not meet any immediate or exceptional public concerns at the present time.

We therefore find the balance of public interest falls in maintaining the exemption and the GLA publishing this information in accordance with our existing publication timetable

***How much did the Mayor incur in travel expenses in 2020/21?***
***How much did the Mayor incur in travel expenses in 2021/22?***

The Mayor's expenses including travel expenses are published at
https://www.london.gov.uk/people/mayoral/sadiq-khan/expenses

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA020822-6424.

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