

MAYOR OF LONDON

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Chair of the London Assembly
C/o AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA090322-6383

Date: 7 February 2023

Dear Onkar,

I am writing further to Assembly Member Andrew Boff's letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly Plenary meeting on 3 March 2022. My reply to motion 4 is set out below. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Motion 4 – Safer neighbourhoods

I greatly appreciate the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) programme and all the work this network of committed volunteers has done to help keep London safe for so many years.

However, during the consultation for my Action Plan to improve accountability, transparency and trust in policing, it was clear from the wide range of communities we spoke with that the current mechanisms for engaging with and holding policing to account are not functioning as well as they could in some areas.

It was also clear that there is a need for much greater representation in these groups, in order to give all communities a meaningful voice in how policing is delivered locally. That is why I have committed to overhauling all local scrutiny and engagement mechanisms for policing in London as part of my Action Plan, to ensure that they are delivering as effectively as possible for all of London's communities. We have commissioned an expert provider to undertake an in-depth consultation and co-production programme with communities to determine what the future of local engagement and scrutiny of policing should look like, and this will include consideration of leadership, funding, membership, representation, remit and accountability, and support from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

Naturally, members of existing SNBs and other engagement and scrutiny mechanisms will be included in this consultation. The timetable for this consultation has been extended to allow for more targeted engagement with key audiences and more groups across London, including Deaf and disabled people for example. To date, there has been a good response to the call for evidence.

With regard to funding in the short term, I am aware that this is a source of some concern for some boards. Any delay in making payment impacts on the SNBs. Changes have been made to improve the efficiency of the funding and payment process. The application form for funding projects has been revised to reduce, where possible, administrative and payment errors. Access to the finance information system is now available to those working from home, enabling a quicker, better-informed response to processing claims and resolving queries.

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My responses to the other motions raised have been sent separately.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London