

## London Assembly Mayor's Question Time – Friday 19 October 2018

### Transcript of Item 5 – Questions to the Mayor

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** We now move to the questions which are set out on the priority order paper and the first question is London's Brexit preparations in the name of Assembly Member Duvall.

#### **2018/2841 - London's Brexit preparations**

[Len Duvall AM](#)

*Can you provide an update on how you are preparing London for when/if the UK leaves the EU?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. The Government's botched operation on the Brexit negotiations means that crashing out of the EU with no deal at all looks more likely than ever. Even the French Government is more prepared than the British Government for a no deal scenario, having published their No Deal Bill earlier this week.

That is why several months ago I instructed my officials to step up our preparations for a no deal Brexit. I asked the London Resilience Forum, the partnership responsible for ensuring London's preparedness in the event of emergencies, to establish the impact of a no deal Brexit on a number of critical areas. The Resilience Forum's work to date has indicated that there has been a lack of information from the Government to inform local planners and individual organisations of the expected outcomes of a no deal Brexit. This, coupled with either commercial or security sensitivities on some of the key issues such as food, fuel, energy and essential medicine supplies, has severely constrained the ability of any local level resilience planning.

I have also launched a survey of London's business community to determine whether businesses have started to take the necessary steps to prepare for Brexit and whether the advice and support being provided was adequate. The survey has only recently closed but what was clear from the responses is that businesses feel they have not had sufficient guidance from the Government. In response, I have launched a Brexit business portal on the London Growth Hub to help businesses navigate the information and access the support available to them.

I will be raising these issues directly with the Government but it is obvious that we remain completely unprepared for a no deal Brexit and this is one of the reasons why I have called for a public vote. The Prime Minister clearly does not have the mandate to gamble so flagrantly with the future of the British economy and people's livelihoods. The reality is the abject failure of the Government and the huge risk we now face of either a bad deal or a no deal Brexit means that giving people a fresh say on our future is now the right and only approach left for the good of our country.

**Len Duvall AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. In essence, even though we are having difficulty getting information out of HM Government about some of their scenario planning and resilience planning, we are going ahead in London and starting to prepare on what information we have got. So you essentially agree with a Conservative-led government. The reason why I ask this is we have got Members in this Chamber who do not agree with the Conservative-led Government in preparing for resilience planning for a no deal Brexit. Is that your position? You think they are right to do it. It is not shroud waving. It is not talking London down as others have said. It is about actually preparing for all events that we may face and particularly in terms of no deal.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think that is very prudent and I support the Government's need to prepare for the possibility of a no deal. I query and criticise how much it has done. The technical notes it has prepared are inadequate. But there is a possibility, Assembly Member Duvall, we have no deal with no transition period and we literally fall off a cliff edge at the end of March 2019. The idea that, because of some sort of blind patriotism or blind jingoism, we do not prepare for that, I think, is reckless. As it is a no deal would be catastrophic. No deal without any preparation is not even worth thinking about.

**Len Duvall AM:** Thank you.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** This is a supplementary question to Assembly Member Duvall's question. I am particularly concerned about the impact of no deal on medical supplies. The Government has said that the NHS will stockpile six weeks' of medicines. What guarantees or assurances have you had that we are prepared to do that or we are in a position to be able to do that by the exit date?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As part of the London Resilience Forum that Assembly Member Fiona Twycross is chairing and working on we are speaking to the NHS and others about how much medicines they have. You will be aware, Dr Sahota, that a considerable amount of our medicines is imported from the EU and one of the concerns obviously the NHS and others have is, if there is a catastrophic no deal or without transition, is there a need to stockpile extra medical supplies. You will also be aware that some of these medical supplies need to be refrigerated and at a certain temperature. The Government has told the NHS to stockpile six weeks' worth of extra medical supplies. I am really concerned about our access to medicines should there be the reality of what is a distinct possibility of no deal without transition. The officials are working. Our officials are working with Government officials and Assembly Member Fiona Twycross and others will make sure that we are as prepared as we can be.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** As you say we import something like 37 million packets of medicines every month from the European Union (EU) but, on top of that, there are medicines produced in this country that will not be recognised in Europe and that is another problem for our manufacturers who will not be able to export their medicines in to Europe. That is another problem which we will face.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No one talked about this when campaigning to leave the EU two years ago, two and a half, three years ago. It was going to be the land of milk and honey should the British public vote to leave the EU. This is not what we were promised. You will be aware the European Medicines Agency is now leaving London as well, going to Amsterdam, taking at least 900 jobs with them. That has an impact on our medicine economy but also, you are right, the regulations mean, if we are going to have a frictionless trade with the EU, we have got to abide by the regulations, not unreasonably, that the EU have. The idea that we will have divergence is very worrying when it comes to export of medicine which we have in alignment which will mean the possibility of us being able to export our medicines to the EU -- really important for jobs. The cross-fertilisation of experts in our country working with experts in the EU has led to the innovation of, as you will know, many advances in medicine and medicines.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Great. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much. Now Assembly Member O'Connell's question on Blackhorse Lane Bridge. Please note that the question should refer to a completion date of 2020, not 2022.

## 2018/2673 - Blackhorse Lane Bridge

Steve O'Connell AM

*Should my constituents be satisfied that repairs to Blackhorse Lane Bridge will not be completed until 2020?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. It is essential that the Blackhorse Lane Bridge and the neighbouring Croydon Council-owned Addiscombe Railway Park Bridge are replaced. These bridges are over 100 years old and were inherited by Transport for London (TfL) from Network Rail in 2013. TfL has since done all it can to make sure these bridges were maintained. However, these bridges are nearly 130 years old and at the end of their design life. Replacing them is the only option. TfL is working closely with Croydon Council and Sarah Jones MP [Member of Parliament for Croydon Central] to coordinate this vital safety work as quickly as possible to ensure that the bridges can safely accommodate tram and road traffic not just for the immediate future but for the next 100 plus years. Options to strengthen the existing bridges were considered but this would still have caused significant disruption and would not be cost efficient as they would still need to be replaced later on.

The improvements will include widening one of the bridges to include a cycle path, in line with the Healthy Streets approach. The two bridges are being replaced in one joint project to save public money and to reduce disruption. It had been hoped that the bridges would be open by January 2019. It is disappointing that works are taking longer than expected which means local residents are inconvenienced while the bridges are closed but safety must take priority. This is a highly complex civil engineering project. During the initial investigations and enabling works a number of unforeseen issues were encountered, for example, the team working on the Addiscombe Railway Park Bridge discovered a Victorian sewer system which was not detailed on any plans for the area. This has led to delays in the design phase of the project while new engineering solutions were drawn up by the contractor.

Replacing the two bridges in one project is the right approach for TfL, the borough and, most importantly, local people. There are still some site trials taking place whilst the final design is going through approval. It is important TfL and Croydon Council get this right as the bridges are expected to last 120 years.

Over the last two weeks TfL has been working closely with colleagues from the London Borough of Croydon to review and challenge the latest programme of works received from the main contractor. The local Member of Parliament (MP), Sarah Jones, has also raised concerns. The team's focus now is to find ways to significantly reduce the planned construction period to as short a time as possible, making sure that safety remains the overriding priority.

TfL and Croydon Council are working hard to complete the review as soon as possible and to be able to announce the planned reopening dates for the bridges later this year. We are expecting the main works to commence before the end of the year and we are seeking to ensure that they complete as early as possible in 2020. Activity will increase in the coming weeks as key construction works commence. I have asked TfL to make sure that Assembly Member O'Connell, the local MP Sarah Jones, and local residents are kept updated.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I think you are reading from the same briefing I got from Croydon Council as well so thank you for that. I cannot overstate the disruption. This might sound a local matter but the disruption to residents and businesses since 2016 has been significant. This bridge closed in 2016 and, at the present timings, it will be closed pretty much the whole entirety of your Mayoralty. Can I ask you personally -- that was a TfL response, quite rightly, and I am echoing Croydon Council's concerns around this, you will understand that. Can I ask you what you can do personally to intervene because this has taken so

long and I believe TfL has dragged its heels on this? Would you be able to personally intervene and to urge a speedier conclusion, if possible?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, can I answer the Assembly Member in the affirmative and tell him we were also contacted not just by him but by the local MP. We were told that the high level indicative programme estimates a completion date of around two years from now. It is not good enough. I have personally intervened in that and we are working with TfL to see what we can do to interrogate that indicative timeline to speed that up and I will make sure he is kept updated of any progress we make. Because he is right; we cannot, in City Hall, dismiss this as a local project because local businesses have really been affected. I have read reports of one business, for example, closing down and that worries me hugely. I can give that undertaking, Mr Chairman, to personally keep an interest in this.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** I appreciate that. Thank you.

**Len Duvall AM:** I think you are right in terms of the approach, Mr Mayor, you are taking but I think you should point out to Assembly Member O'Connell the background that TfL has been working in. It has had to cut millions out of its budget, enforced by a Conservative government. We have had the legacy of the Conservative Mayor negotiating millions away and not receiving anything at all. Later on this agenda we are going to talk about the Garden Bridge. That all could have actually helped in terms of speeding up some of this process.

But you are right to be concerned about business and you are right to be concerned about the safety of residents and the issues of taking this project forward but people need to understand the consequences that actually these projects are not done in isolation. It is against a background and against a background of government cuts.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, I think it is worth the Assembly Member, and particularly students from California, being aware of some of the waste that has taken place with the previous Mayor. £37 million has been spent so far on the Garden Bridge.

What Assembly Member Duvall is alluding to is we, in TfL, are losing, on average, £700 million from the operating grant we receive. We are the only public transport system in the western world not subsidised by central Government. Additionally, the salt in the wound is the Vehicle Excise Duty Londoners pay is going to be spent on roads outside of London. We get none of this money back in London. Public transport fare payers will be paying to improve the roads, including bridges, in London. Clearly not acceptable and that is why I continue to make savings in TfL whilst lobbying the Government for a decent settlement.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Mr Mayor, if I can just reconfirm. Assembly Member Duvall's interruption kind of disrupted the rather collegiate way we were approaching this issue so can I confirm that you will work with myself, Croydon Council, MP Sarah Jones to try to bring a fast resolution to this matter?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I, Chairman, echo I can do that but also it is important that the Assembly Member is kept updated so he can also cascade the information down to the most important people here, who are the constituents.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Thank you.

## 2018/2526 - Climate change

Caroline Russell AM

*A new study from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that at the current rate of warming, the central estimate for reaching 1.5C is around 2040, but it could be as early as 2030. In this context, will you review your carbon reduction targets and your ambition to make London a zero carbon city by 2050?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. Can I congratulate Assembly Member Russell as well on the promotion.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5 degrees is a wake up call. The consequences of exceeding a 1.5 degrees celsius average temperature across the globe are significant and we only have a short time to act. We are already preparing for London to experience more frequent severe flooding in the winter and to have hotter drier summers. This could affect all Londoners. In the type of heatwave that is predicted to occur in the 2030s it is estimated that two thirds of flats could overheat. Nearly 1.3 million people already live and work in areas at risk of flooding.

That is why we are working hard to make London a more resilient city. We are doing what we can from City Hall to make sure London plays its part in mitigating climate change. London was among the first to achieve certification of a Paris Agreement Compatible Climate Action Plan by C40. This confirmation of compliance was sent by C40 in April 2018. My ambition is for London to be a zero-carbon city by 2050 and we have set out plans to make this a reality in the London Environment Strategy which has also been independently assessed to be 1.5 degrees compliant. This puts London's ambition well ahead of national Government, that is lagging well behind the IPCC's recommendations.

I have reviewed the carbon reduction targets of London since I became Mayor to make them more ambitious. London has also set ambitious short term carbon budgets in my London Environment Strategy based on what is technically feasible which shows commitment and leadership. To give you an idea of the scale of action required by 2035 we must retrofit nearly 1.5 million homes. That will require retrofitting of up to 150,000 homes in one year. We also need to change our heat to low carbon sources and create an entirely zero carbon transport network. We are taking action now to make this a reality and are introducing zero carbon standards for new buildings, bringing in the world's toughest low emission zones and improving the energy efficiency of buildings through my RE:FIT and RE:NEW programmes and our new £500 million Energy Efficient Loan Fund.

But London cannot do this alone. The Government's current policies will not meet its own 8% carbon reduction target, let alone the Paris Agreement aims.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. It is good that you are aware of the seriousness of the IPCC report and that you can see the serious potential impacts for Londoners. 1.5 degrees warming is like a cliff edge and, beyond that, we get to the very worst of impacts climate breakdown; floods, heatwaves, extreme weather events and wildfires becoming our new normal.

Now given that the IPCC say that this limit could be exceeded in as little as 12 years; that is by 2030. Will you consider a 12-year emergency carbon reduction plan for London based on the IPCC recommendations?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We already are doing more than the national Government. As it is, for us to meet the ambitious targets, we have got three five-year carbon budgets going forward. We need the Government to do much more than it currently is. One of the reasons why --

**Caroline Russell AM:** Mr Mayor, you are right to criticise the Government. It is forcing through fracking, Heathrow expansion, pulling the plug on solar. All of those things. Then absolutely not showing any leadership. But I asked if you would consider a 12-year emergency carbon reduction plan for London based on the IPCC report.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure. I was about to explain.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Sorry.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What we have done is the three five-year carbon reduction targets are already shown by the C40 to get us towards meeting the requirements of the Paris Accord. As it is, for us to meet those ambitious and stretching targets, we need the Government to do much more. I am worried, as it currently stands, the Government is not going to do enough for us to meet even those stretching targets. The two criteria we have had is being ambitious but being realistic. Some of the things we need, just to meet those targets by the way, before you go even further, is we need the Government to provide strong and consistent national policy that will help us meet our targets. We need help with regulation, economic incentives and funding. Without those some people are querying whether we can even reach the targets we currently have.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Given that the Government clearly needs to be doing more would you, for instance, back a call for a national government task force working across departments to drive climate action at every level of government, so at local Government, borough level, as well as at London level? Is that a call that you would back?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. That is basically what we are doing at City Hall. You cannot look at this in silos. The idea that simply one department looking at this is ridiculous. Transport, housing, the budget, the comprehensive spending review. All these things are linked. You are right to remind us, with the best will in the world, whether it is [The Rt. Hon] Michael Gove [MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] or [The Rt. Hon] Claire Perry [MP, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy], they by themselves cannot do this. It needs buy in from all departments from Government. Whether it is a task force, what we are doing here by mainstreaming the issue, that needs to happen as soon as possible.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Thank you. Finally, apart from the sort of big picture of decarbonising our cities' infrastructure, the IPCC report lists examples of changes that we can make in our daily lives like eating less meat and dairy, video conferencing rather than flying, walking and cycling, more using washing lines, not tumble dryers. The kind of changes that Londoners can make to move to a lower carbon way of living. Will you take on inspiring Londoners to take the threat of climate change seriously, as you have done with air pollution?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We have got it. For example, the last two C40 meetings were done by telephone conference rather than attending. These are some of the examples of the things that we can do. A lot of this is common sense. One of the reasons why I was so keen, for example, for us to ensure we have water fountains across our city is for people to take some personal responsibility of refilling bottles. There are other examples we can do. It does not need to be in a patronising or lecturing way. It is just being a bit more

savvy about what we can do to contribute towards not only the situation by 2030, we can have an increase of 1.5 degrees --

**Caroline Russell AM:** Do I take that as a, "Yes" because I am almost out of time.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure.

**Caroline Russell AM:** OK. Thank you.

## **2018/2904 - Brexit**

[David Kurten AM](#)

*Given you are now calling for a second referendum, why do you not respect the democratic will of the British people who voted to leave the European Union on 23 June 2016?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am calling for a first opportunity for the public to vote on the final deal negotiated by the Prime Minister or on a no deal Brexit if a deal is not secured.

The British people voted in 2016 to leave the EU. It is no secret that I campaigned to remain, but I have always respected the result and worked to make the best of the situation. That is why, since the referendum, I have given the Government my support, where appropriate, as it has tried to negotiate with the EU. That is why I have worked closely with the Brexit Secretary and other Cabinet Members to push for the best possible deal. I have also met with various senior representatives from the EU and European countries to impress upon them that negotiating a good deal is in all of our interests. In good faith I have given the Government every bit of advice and information available to City Hall and every opportunity to strike a deal that would minimise the impact on people's livelihoods. But I have become increasingly alarmed as the chaotic approach to the negotiations has become mired in confusion and deadlock leading us down a path that could be hugely damaging.

The Government's actions over the last two years has left us with two possible outcomes; a bad deal or, worst still, no deal at all. Both these scenarios are a million miles away from what was promised during the EU referendum campaign and poses huge risks. The Prime Minister simply does not have a mandate to gamble so flagrantly with jobs, growth and our nation's security. People did not vote to leave the EU to make themselves poorer, to watch their businesses suffer, to have NHS wards under staffed, to see the police preparing for civil unrest or for national security to be put at risk.

So, after careful consideration, I have decided that the British public must get the final say on Brexit. This means, short of a General Election, there must be a public vote on any deal, if the Government is able to agree one, or a vote on a no deal Brexit if they are not, alongside the option of staying in the EU. It is clear that it is time to take this crucial issue out of the hands of politicians and return it to the people so they can take back control.

**David Kurten AM:** Mr Mayor, I do wonder if you have been asleep in the last couple of years and you have missed the main point and the main feature of what has been happening in our democracy since you became Mayor in 2016 and a few weeks after the people of this country voted to leave the EU. You talk about a People's Vote but we have already had a People's Vote and 17.4 million people in this country voted to take

back control of our sovereignty, our laws, our borders, our money, our agriculture and our fishing grounds. That cannot be overturned.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Are you going to ask a question?

**David Kurten AM:** I am coming to the question. Your joining this campaign for a People's Vote; is that not a flagrant and brazen attempt to overturn the democratic will of the British people?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP), a man probably none of you have heard of, is called Gerald Batten. He said --

**David Kurten AM:** Gerard.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Until this morning I had not heard of him either! He said that doing a deal with the EU would be the easiest deal to make in history. You could do it over a cup of tea in the afternoon. Do you agree with him?

**David Kurten AM:** It would be very easy if the EU was not so difficult and did not throw obstacles in the way of this country, which is what we have seen over the last couple of years. What I might agree with you slightly on is the fact that we have not had any good negotiation from Theresa May [Prime Minister] and we would have had a much better set of negotiations if someone from UKIP were in charge as obviously you seem to be alluding.

Mr Mayor, one of the major politicians who campaigned to remain said this shortly after, and I wonder if you agree with this person. He said:

*"The problem for those that are saying to the British public there should be a second referendum is that it would lead to even more cynicism. It will lead to the British public saying, 'Hold on a sec. These were the rules of the game. We voted in record numbers and now you are ignoring us'. But the reality is the British public had a say. They voted and they voted to leave."*

Now the name of that person was Sadiq Khan. It is you. Why are not agreeing with yourself anymore?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think the problem is even the leader of your Party has been proved to be wrong in relation to the possibility of doing a deal with the EU. Nobody said during the referendum campaign that we would have the police planning for civil unrest. Nobody said, who campaigned for us to leave the EU, that the NHS would be stockpiling medicine for six weeks. Nobody said, who was campaigning to leave the EU, that we would have NHS wards in London under staffed because EU citizens, who are Londoners by the way, have chosen to leave our country. Those campaigning to leave the EU did not say you would have businesses who are relocating to other cities across Europe, taking some of their back office staff to cities as diverse as Frankfurt to Paris. Those leaving the EU did not say that the European Medicines Agency would relocate from London to Amsterdam, taking at least 900 jobs with them. Those campaigning to leave the EU said that doing a deal with the EU would lead to us having access to the single market. Not the case. Those who were campaigning to leave the EU said that we would get £350 million each week going towards the NHS as a consequence of us leaving the EU. That did not happen. All the promises made during the referendum campaign by you and colleagues, and those you revere and idolise like Boris Johnson [MP, former Mayor of London], have been proved to be wrong.



The point that I am making is that nobody said we would have two options, either a bad deal or a no deal, when it came to us leaving the EU and, in those circumstances, I think the British public should have a say on deciding whether they accept bad deal - that includes, by the way, no deal - or whether they want to stay in the EU. Bearing in mind all the promises made by you and your side have shown to be mistruths, lies and fantasy.

**David Kurten AM:** Mr Mayor, as people have said all the way through, no deal is better than a bad deal and, as many of the people said on both sides of the argument, leaving the EU means leaving in full, leaving the single market and leaving the customs union.

I do appreciate your skills in filibustering, Mr Mayor, because you have talked me out of my time and unfortunately I do not have time for any other questions. I pass back to you, Mr Chairman.

**Len Duvall AM:** Mr Mayor, I look respectfully to the Assembly Member's comments about democracy and following the rules of democracy. It is always a difficult issue. It is not a difficult issue in the sense of how you believe about democracy. I think you are right to point out things and events can change. I was waiting to hear Assembly Member Kurten say. There are people in his party - and I do not know whether Assembly Member Kurten believes with them - who are not convinced believe in democracy. Their views are not the same. They use democracy but their ultimate aim is not to follow democracy, it is to replace it by dictatorship. UKIP had a very proud record of trying to keep the far right out of its party.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Is there a question?

**Len Duvall AM:** This seems to have been changed. The question is this. Do you think Assembly Member Kurten should think about you cannot choose your family but you can choose your friends? One of the people he has welcomed in to the party --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes, but what is the question?

**Len Duvall AM:** -- who, I suspect, does not agree with democracy is one of those who taught his girlfriend's dog to give Nazi salutes in response to the words, "*Seig heil*".

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Duvall. This question is not about London and, indeed, is not a question --

**Len Duvall AM:** Those people. I do not believe Assembly Member Kurten is a modern day Nazi --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Duvall. Stop.

**Len Duvall AM:** -- anti gay or anti Muslim. Do you think he is? I have asked a question, Mr Chairman.

**David Kurten AM:** This is not right.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No. Please. Assembly Member Duvall. That did not appear to relate to London. It appeared to relate to an attack on Assembly Member Kurten. Indeed, I am not even sure what the question was.

**Len Duvall AM:** Do you think it is good for London, Mr Mayor -- I will rephrase the question. Do you think it is good for London for those who hide behind democratic practices, who are not clear - because I am not clear - whether they support democracy 100% and that they are moving towards some of those people that believe --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No. No. Assembly Member Duvall. You are returning to an attack on another Member. That is the not the function of this meeting.

**David Kurten AM:** Mr Chairman, I have just been called -- the Assembly Member has just called me a Nazi. I would ask that he withdraw that comment.

**Len Duvall AM:** I said you were not.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** David, he did not.

**David Kurten AM:** Okay, thank you. Well that's good.

**Len Duvall AM:** I did not believe you were. But are you? Are you? I do not believe it.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Do you think we could move on to the next question from Assembly Member Cooper which relates to the environment and Brexit, which I hope is not so controversial.

## **2018/2740 - Consequences of Brexit for the environment**

[Leonie Cooper AM](#)

*What does the "governance gap" concerning air quality legislation when/if the UK leaves the EU mean for London's air?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, the Government has said it wants the United Kingdom (UK) to be at least as green outside of the EU as it is within it but, so far, its words have not been met with action and the threat of a no deal Brexit could have serious implications for the environment.

For the past 40 years the EU has helped to ensure that UK Governments have cleaned up our air and waterways and protected our wildlife. This was achieved by European institutions enforcing environmental legislation and holding Member States to account. Including providing citizens with a mechanism to make complaints. European enforcement action around the Air Quality Directive played a pivotal role in focusing Government attention and unlocking funding to ensure London met legal limits for PM10. It is critical that this important enforcement tool continues in the UK to ensure that the Government is doing everything it can to protect and clean up our dangerously polluted air and to protect the health of citizens. The Government has proposed a green watchdog to fill this governance gap in environmental enforcement when the UK leaves the EU as part of a new Clean Air and Environment Bill.

Whilst I welcome a new bill and the commitment to a new watchdog I am concerned about how credible this will be based on what the Government has proposed so far. We responded to the consultation on the watchdog and made it clear that to fill this governance gap it is critical that this body is independent and has a power and responsibility to hold Government to account, including taking Government to court and being able to levy fines. I am also deeply concerned that the Government's proposals currently do not extend to climate

change. In light of the recent IPCC report it is essential that the loophole is closed. I would once again urge Government to ensure that these issues are addressed in its final proposals.

A no deal Brexit with no transition period risks the UK having no mechanism in place to hold the Government to account on environmental issues. I am extremely concerned that this would create a governance gap that existing environmental authorities would be unable to fill given their current stretched resources. This risks the UK falling behind the rest of Europe with poor air quality and less green protections. This simply must not happen.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. You will not be surprised to hear that I share many of your concerns about the impact of Brexit in terms of legislation around air quality.

I just wondered if I could ask you a little bit on the polluter pays principle which is very important in EU law but is also underlaid in the concept of both the Toxicity Charge (T-Charge) and also the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) so Londoners who do not own or use a vehicle are not paying for those who do. Have we had adequate reassurance from Government that that principle, which is one that is very, very much throughout European law, is something we are going to be able to continue to use in London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Earlier on Assembly Member Duvall alluded to the difference between national Conservative policy and the policy of those who are Members of this Conservative Party Assembly. This is an example of the difference between Conservative Assembly Members and the Conservative Party nationally. The Conservative Government appears to be in favour of the polluter [pays] principle and its proposals appear to support our view that those who pollute should pay. The Conservative candidate [Shaun Bailey AM] standing to be the Mayor of this great city is against both the T-Charge and ULEZ. Another example of him being out of synch with his party. We should not be surprised by this confusion in its policy.

I am quite clear though, in relation to the replacement for the EU both in terms of legislation and both in terms of watchdog, we need to make sure that the polluter pays principle is in there which means the rest of us who are suffering the consequences of, for example, poor air quality, from under developed lungs to asthma to dementia, at least have those who have caused this paying towards some of the remedial steps necessary.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** That is encouraging to hear that the Government is going to continue to allow us to use those tools but I, like you, am concerned that Assembly Member Bailey, who is the Lead for the Conservatives on this Assembly on environmental issues, has described the T-Charge and other measures as pointless. Given that it is now almost exactly a year since the T-Charge was launched and I, like you, had to talk to a lot of people just before it came in about its likely impact, I wondered if you could update us on the impact so far and how much air quality has improved already looking forward to the ULEZ next year?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As you are aware the T-Charge is part of a package of measures that we have introduced since May 2016. I have lost track of which ones the Conservative Party supports and which of them it does not support. But they include the Low Emission Bus Zone which has led to huge improvements of air oxygen in Putney but also around Brixton. We are not purchasing any more diesel buses. We now only get electric hydrogen powered or hybrid. There is less than six months to go until the ULEZ comes on stream which is the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone. The T-Charge was a precursor to the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

The good news in relation to the T-Charge was a number of vehicles that prior to the T-Charge were coming in to central London are now no longer coming in to central London so people have changed their behaviour as a

consequence of the T-Charge. It is an example of good sensible policies leading to changes made by individuals.

You will be aware that one of the factors that [The Rt. Hon] Michael Gove [MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] himself said for him deciding to introduce a Bill was because of the work we are doing in London. So where we lead others follow. It is just a shame that it does not extend to the Conservative candidate running to be the Mayor of this great city.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** It does not really sound as though the activity that we have taken so far is as pointless as Assembly Member Bailey has implied because not just the Government but I think also other Mayors around the rest of the country -- you convened a session in June 2018 on national Clean Air Day and it looks as though Mayors around the rest of the country are looking to London for leadership, rather than seeing what we are doing as pointless.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is not just Mayors around the country. We have got councils in London, Conservative councils, some in support of ULEZ. Some lobby me to go further, including Wandsworth. A good example of the Conservative Party being in disarray in relation to what each component part stands for. But you are right; not only within London do we have cross-party support, by and large, but also around the country the Metro Mayors, whether it is in the West Midlands, the west of England, Tees Valley, Liverpool, Greater Manchester, you have seen an example of us coming together, including the core cities and those who are outside the core cities, and [The Rt. Hon] Michael Gove [MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] attended the summit we held to lobby for a change.

It does require a combination of carrots and sticks but we have got to make sure we take steps to sort the air out in London. It is a killer. It leads to premature deaths, it leads to under developed lungs and it leads to the situation where there are too many adults with a vast variety of illnesses from, as I said, dementia to heart disease and cancer as well.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. I receive constant correspondence from Londoners who are very grateful for the work, and your leadership, on this matter. Thank you, Chairman.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you. The next question on sex workers is withdrawn for a written reply so we now go on to Assembly Member Copley's question which relates to Brexit - what a surprise - and affordable housing.

## **2018/2754 - Brexit and Affordable Housing**

[Tom Copley AM](#)

*The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, has described a scenario following Brexit where house prices crash by up to 35%. What impact would this have on the capacity of London to build the affordable houses we need?*

**Tom Copley AM:** Almost as if it is a big issue, Mr Chairman.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Brexit poses a huge risk to building new homes in London including the social rented and other genuinely affordable homes. The wider economy, the uncertainty and Brexit are all factors outside City Hall's control. In one recent survey almost half of

homebuilders said Brexit uncertainty is making them feel less positive about investment. In another, two thirds of construction firms said they do not believe the Government is committed to getting a good deal for their industry. In the face of this reckless approach City Hall will continue to provide as much stability and support as possible.

My approach to planning for uncertainty around affordable housing contributions and the £4.82 billion funding we secured last year means that we saw a record number of genuinely affordable homes get underway. But the truth is that the Government has given us this funding for affordable homes at historically low rates. In their calculations Ministers assume affordable homes in a development will be heavily cross-subsidised by market sale properties. Whatever happens with Brexit, the way we build homes and, in particular affordable homes, needs to become less reliant on expensive market sale homes and less vulnerable to fluctuations in their prices. We want to see housing associations and councils taking the lead and building far more in London. Our Building Council Homes for Londoners programme, the first ever City Hall programme dedicated to council house building, will support at least 10,000 new council homes and, just today, we announced £10 million of funding to boost staff and training in councils to help them achieve this.

But to see a true step change in what councils can do we need the Government to go further. The Prime Minister's announcement that caps on councils' borrowing to build homes will be lifted is something I and others have long called for. We are still waiting for the details including when this will actually happen. But the reforms must not stop there. We need much greater longer term funding for affordable homes with far stronger powers for councils over land to build the homes we need.

There is no doubt that Brexit will make it even harder to address London's housing crisis. I am fighting for the best possible outcome and will continue to do all I can to build social rented and other genuinely affordable homes for Londoners.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you for that answer, Mr Mayor. You touched on one of my follow up questions which is about the rate of grant. Of course it is very welcome that in London you have significantly increased the rate of grant compared to your predecessor but national Government policy, and particularly in the Cameron [David Cameron MP, former Prime Minister]/Osborne [George Osborne, former Chancellor of the Exchequer] years, was to cut grant to housing associations and leave them increasingly reliant on cross-subsidy and housing associations even in London are using the cross-cross-subsidy model.

Are you concerned that a funding model which includes significant cross-subsidy is going to leave housing associations exposed if there is a housing market crash as a result of Brexit?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. When you speak to developers -- by the way, put aside for a second housing associations, I will come back to them in a second. But developers are worried about their ability to cross-subsidise when it comes to private schemes where they had agreed to provide a certain amount of affordable homes. When you look at the model that housing associations use they need the cross-subsidy and the fluctuations in the market do not help.

I think this provides an opportunity. The counter-cyclical nature of housing prices means that if the Government was sensible and invested councils and housing associations could build the homes that are not going to be built because of Brexit uncertainty.

**Tom Copley AM:** Absolutely. Of course the counter-cyclical approach is one I think that Gordon Brown [former Prime Minister] took post the previous crash --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely right.

**Tom Copley AM:** -- where grant rates were significantly increased for housing associations.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** On that, two points just worth reminding you. One is during the 1970s councils were building, roughly speaking, 20,000 homes a year. In the last seven it has been 2,000. But the amount of grant money we receive from central Government is half what we received in 2009/10 from the then Labour Government under Gordon's leadership.

**Tom Copley AM:** Can I move on quickly to the issue of skills because of course 28% of our construction workforce in London is from the EU and some do think that that is an under-estimate; it might be more than that. That leaves us very exposed as well. Could you set out some of the things you are doing, particularly in terms of support for modular housing, and do you think that modular housing and factory built homes could provide a major part of the solution?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Firstly, the figures I have is almost 100,000 construction workers in London are EU citizens. That is, roughly speaking, a third. If it is the case, we have a no deal scenario, there will be real question marks about what happens to the construction sector.

In any event we have got to accelerate efforts to get Londoners skilled up to have the construction skills they need going forward, irrespective of what happens with Brexit but it has accelerated the need. We have got a combination of the Construction Skills Academy, doing work there, but also you are right in relation to -- you call it modular. I think the phrase used is precision manufacturing. Assembly Member Nicky Gavron has done a lot of work in relation to this area. That provides an opportunity in relation to putting components together. Different skill set. It also could lead to greater diversity in the construction workforce as well. We are looking at how we can accelerate precision manufacturing. The Homes for Londoners Board are doing work in relation to this and there is a sub-group looking at how we can accelerate precision manufacturing.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you very much.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** The Landlord Association has expressed concern that the Government's hostile Environment Policy within the context of Brexit will create conditions for a new Windrush-style scandal as EU citizens find themselves unable to access housing in the private-rented sector. Do you share their concerns and how can you support EU citizens worried about whether they will have a place to live or be able to find a place to live after the UK leaves the EU?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I absolutely share the concerns. I think also Shelter and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) have expressed similar concerns in relation to right to rent provisions. In my view they should be scrapped because what is happening is landlords are having to act like UK Border Agency (UKBA) and do immigration checks on a prospective tenant and that leads to all sorts of discrimination in relation to the provision of housing.

Just to reassure you, Assembly Member Twycross, and the Assembly, as part of the work we are doing to help EU citizens, Londoners, is the online portal for EU citizens will have with it advice and assistance and signposting but, separately, we are supporting the funding for some outreach work for civil society groups to go out and speak to these Londoners, EU citizens, who, because of the hostile environment, may be deterred

from getting decent housing. They are the consequences of the Government's catastrophic handling of negotiations with the EU and its consequences.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you. Will you ask the Deputy Mayor for Housing to provide advice to landlords as well who may actually be unclear about what their responsibilities and duties are?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely happy to look in to that. I think the Government has already, as part of its consultation panel, have got the Landlords Association on there. I will make sure we feed in to that as well to make sure that proper guidance is given. What we do not want to do is have well intentioned landlords, with good intentions, making bad decisions. There is both direct discrimination possible but also indirect discrimination possible as well. I will make sure that is passed on to Deputy Mayor James Murray [Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development].

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you.

## **2018/2760 - Brexit and Policing**

[Unmesh Desai AM](#)

*Given the warnings contained in the National Police Coordination Centre report, how are you and the MPS planning for the different scenarios of a no-deal Brexit?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. During the referendum there was very little talk about the prospect of Britain leaving the EU with no deal at all but time is running out and the reality is that Theresa May [Prime Minister] has failed to negotiate a Brexit position with her own Party let alone agree a deal with the EU. With time rapidly running out we are left with two possibilities; a bad deal or a no deal Brexit. Both outcomes could have dire consequences for security in London. Leaving without a deal would mean not only unravelling the legal framework of cooperation with the EU, which I have consistently highlighted, but also have wider effects on the MPS' everyday operations.

Let us also be clear what this means. The National Police Coordination Centre report that Assembly Member Desai refers to describes a real possibility of the police needing to call in the military to help with civil disorder. It warns of - and I quote, "Unprecedented and overwhelming disruption to the road network" and it raises concerns about the status of EU nationals working in policing. I do not remember any of these promoted on the side of a bus during the campaign.

Broader contingency planning is overseen by the Deputy Commissioner who chairs a regular MPS Board on this issue. It is proper and prudent this work is underway and I am confident that the MPS is working hard to mitigate the potential adverse effects of a range of Brexit scenarios. We cannot pretend there will be impact on policing. I have discussed the security consequences of Brexit with the Government and my Deputy Mayor and I meet with the MPS Commissioner regularly. Our discussions include the potential impact of Brexit on the ability of the MPS to provide safety and security for Londoners. The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner have been clear that a no deal Brexit is likely to mean working with European partners will be slower and less efficient and this can only lead to London being less secure.

As Mayor of London I have been left with no choice but to plan for the worst possible scenarios from the negotiations and that is why I have asked the London Resilience Forum to establish the impact of a no deal Brexit on critical areas which includes our ability to maintain law and order.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. This week is National Hate Crime Awareness Week, as you will be aware. There are aspects of Brexit that I think the debate has not focused on and that is the maintenance of our social cohesion. After the result of the referendum of 2016 there was a spike in hate crime and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services warned that there is a real possibility there will be a similar increase in reports in 2019 if, as anticipated by the Government, the UK formally leaves the EU. This was back in July 2018.

Just yesterday the MPS said itself there could be a spike in hate crime before the UK's planned departure from the EU in March 2019 and Superintendent Waheed Khan, Scotland Yard's Deputy Head of Hate Crime, who I know from his time working in Newham says, "If you look at what happened in the Brexit referendum come March 2019 you will expect some kind of response of that type to take place. We will do what we can to prevent an upturn".

There has been a 17% rise in hate crimes going up to 24,098 in the 12 months to March 2018 and, indeed, the Head of the Hate Crime Unit of the MPS said, "Only half of all hate crimes are reported to the police".

As I said, one of the things that was not talked in the Brexit context is the breakdown of social cohesion. The leaked report that you alluded to talks about the disruption and social unrest likely in the three months either side of 29 March 2019.

There is something else - I am coming to my question, Mr Chairman - I do want to draw attention to. There is an upsurge in far right wing activity in London over the summer. Over the last three months there have been three marches by the so-called Democratic Football Lads Alliance and the English Defence League attended by people like Gerard Batten, the leader of UKIP, and Raheem Kassem. There are some sinister people out there, sinister forces, waiting to exploit both Brexit uncertainties. I, myself, attended all the counter demonstrations this summer and tomorrow there is the international conference against racism and fascism and to organise against it in London.

What are you and the MPS doing to prepare for all this and what are your particular thoughts about the maintenance of our social fabric and community cohesion in London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I say, Mr Chairman, I am not sure if colleagues are aware, but Assembly Member Desai has been an anti-racist campaigner for most of his life and that is when we first met, being involved in the anti-racist campaign. None of us could have imagined that in 2018 we would be reliving the sort of things we thought we had left behind in the 1970s and 1980s. Some of the language used by the far right in the heart of the most diverse city in the world should cause all of us concern.

The reason why you are right to refer to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services is these are not politicians who may be saying things in order to garner support or, as some would allege, to scaremonger. These are experts looking at the evidence in the recent past and expressing concern that, based on what they have seen in the past, and some of the things happening in our city and our country, there could well be an even greater increase in hate crime and a spike after certain events. So we have got to be vigilant.

That is one of the reasons why it is really important that we are careful with language. The idea that a party aspiring to be a mainstream party should be recruiting members at a far right demonstration beggars belief. That is why Assembly Member Duvall is so angry at some of the comments made by UKIP in this Assembly because it is the bare faced hypocrisy in relation to what they claim to stand for and what happens in practice.



The MPS is doing various things, as you would expect. The Online Hate Crime Hub is very important because you will know that social media is now used to fester some of this animosity and this hate but also to organise events. The MPS will carry on using intelligence to make sure we do what we can. But you are right; hate crime is going up and it is important we address that.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I will take your message of vigilance to tomorrow's conference.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much. Assembly Member Hall's question is withdrawn we now go on to Assembly Member Boff's question on accountability.

## **2018/2631 - Accountability**

[Andrew Boff AM](#)

*How are you improving accountability at the GLA?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Since coming in to office I have answered over 10,500 Mayoral questions and over 400 Plenary questions. The GLA has answered 934 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests in 2017/18, a 77% increase on 2015/16, the last full year of the previous Mayor, while maintaining excellent response times. I have refreshed the format for the State of London Debate including my Deputy Mayors on the Panel with live streaming of the event on Facebook with subtitles. Similarly, Peoples' Question Time has now been to boroughs it has not been to before, including Barking and Dagenham, Sutton, Hounslow. Next week to Islington.

However, I want this administration to lead the way for accountability across the public sector and beyond. That is why we have gone further than any previous administration and are publishing gender and black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) pay gap audits for the GLA Group. Accountability and engagement go hand in hand. Talk London, a website where Londoners can engage with the work of City Hall, is a great example of how I am enhancing opportunities for Londoners to get involved with the work we do. Membership has nearly trebled from 15,400 to 44,000 Londoners. We are making it more representative of Londoners and we received over 11,000 responses to consultations on my statutory strategies through Talk London. This was part of the biggest ever engagement of Londoners in the development of the statutory strategies.

Transparency continues to be enhanced across the board. Early in my term we updated the GLA Group's Corporate Governance Framework to enhance its transparency provisions and address specific Assembly recommendations. We are now publishing richer information about the grants the GLA provides and the GLA, under my direction, has, for the first time ever, signed up to the Office for National Statistics Code of Practice. The London Datastore is reaching over 45,000 individuals across academia, public, private and third sector organisations each month and my team is liaising with boroughs to promote the take up of the London Datastore as a data publishing platform.

As part of the new governance arrangements for the London Fire Brigade I have ensured that the London Fire Commissioner must come to me and my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience for consent on significant decisions, with those decisions and supporting information published wherever possible.

I have taken action to ensure the whole GLA family has learned lessons from the embarrassing way the previous Mayor handled the Garden Bridge project. Specifically, at TfL it has strengthened its processes, training and guidance for procurement and I have brought in a new Board and Committee structure that reduces the use of delegated authority and looks more closely at Mayoral decisions.

When it comes to what is happening in this very building I publish my diary and have appointed new and diverse Board Members and senior officials that are embedded in the culture of accountability I want to see. Mary Harpley has recently joined us as our new Chief Officer. Mary [Harpley] is accountable to me for delivery and I have made it an early priority for her to look at the performance management mechanisms used within the organisation. The Assembly will see the early results of Mary's focus on this in our Quarter 2 reporting with better quality and more timely information across a wider range of measures.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you. In the interests of accountability can you confirm that you authorised a quote in City AM on Wednesday [17 October 2018] from your spokesperson claiming that you were not reducing the planned number of homes at Old Oak Common?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sorry. Did I--?

**Andrew Boff AM:** There was a quote from the Mayor's spokesman, "A spokesman for Khan said the Mayor is not reducing the planned number of homes and jobs at Old Oak Common". Would that have been authorised by yourself?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I cannot remember every single quote we give but I think there was a letter written the next day maybe from Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe [Deputy Mayor, Planning, Regeneration and Skills] that may be more helpful.

**Andrew Boff AM:** That is correct. It then said, "It's simply untrue to suggest that the Mayor is reducing the number of homes at Old Oak Common". You stand by those comments?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am aware of the letter from Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe more so than a spokesperson quote.

**Andrew Boff AM:** You are aware of them and they have your authorisation to make those quote?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am aware of Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe's letter the next day. I am not aware of the specific spokesperson quotes you are referring to.

**Andrew Boff AM:** OK. Let us just pick on Jules Pipe's letter. You support that contention?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yes. Thank you. The Local Plan for the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), which you were in charge of, proposes to set a target of 20,100 new homes in the OPDC area. However, the previous draft, from June 2017, set a target of 22,350. Would you agree that 20,100 is in fact lower than 22,350?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As numbers go they are but I have not got before me the context of the OPDC housing plans you are talking about.

What I am aware is that we have submitted to the Government an application from the Housing Infrastructure Fund that will allow us to build a considerable amount of homes in Old Oak North and I met this week with the Chief Executive and Chair of OPDC and they are extremely confident, as indeed I am, if that application is successful, we will be able to meet the target of homes that we are going to build on OPDC.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Is it not the case, Mr Mayor, that if -- I have got both of those drafts in front of me. The one from June 2017 clearly says that the target is 22,350 and the draft from 14 June [2018] -- I am not allowed to use props and, if I were, I would be showing you this. The one from 14 June [2018] clearly says that the target is now 20,100. Yet your spokesman and your Deputy Mayor are saying there has been no reduction.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think that is why, Mr Chairman, for the sake of context and completeness, [it would be helpful] for the Assembly Member to read out Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe's letter to the Assembly. It is not a prop.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Happy to.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** He could read that out and we could all be aware of what Jules [Pipe] says.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yes. The Deputy Mayor says that -- if you will excuse me. "25,000 new homes" and --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think the complete letter, to be fair. You cannot pick and choose.

**Andrew Boff AM:** OK. I will do that. Am I OK to do that?

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes, read out the whole letter.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yes. "It is simply untrue to suggest" --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sorry, are you asking Shaun [Bailey AM] or Gareth [Bacon AM]?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Sorry?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure who --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No, I am asking him to read out the whole letter.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I beg your pardon.

**Andrew Boff AM:** "It is simply untrue to suggest that the Mayor is reducing the number of homes at the Old Oak Common. This is a flagship regeneration project. And the figures referred to in the article simply refer to the phases of delivery."

In that --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Oh no, no, no. That is not complete. Come on. I mean, Chairman.

**Andrew Boff AM:** No, I will carry on. No, if you want to hear the end. If you do not read them yourself that is fine.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think the point, Mr Chairman, is the Assembly Member should read the entire letter.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No, I have asked him to read out the whole letter.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yes. "The Mayor firmly believes that, with Government's support, the Old Oak Common has long term potential to develop 25,500 new homes and 65,000 new jobs, as has always been the plan."

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sorry, I missed those -- Mr Chairman, I mean he is mumbling. I --

**Andrew Boff AM:** "It is worth recalling the appalling mess" blah blah, "Inherited at Old Oak from his predecessor who rushed headlong in to agreeing a land deal" blah blah. "It has taken Khan a great deal of time to clean up that mess." What a great hero this guy is. "We are fully committed to delivering a scheme that will revitalise this part of London. We want to squeeze every drop of opportunity out of this. We look forward to hearing from the Government regarding its funding decision."

Was there a reduction from 22,350, between the first plan, to 20,100 in the second draft plan?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I stand by the letter, excluding the blah blahs, read out by Assembly Member Boff which eludes to what the Deputy Mayor for Planning was saying this week.

**Andrew Boff AM:** OK. OK. You would therefore claim that the number of homes was not being reduced. Is that correct?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think Jules [Pipe] has set out what the position is.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I am asking you. Why should I ask the Deputy Mayor when the Mayor is here?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Because --

**Andrew Boff AM:** Are you claiming that the number of homes is not being reduced?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am standing by what Jules Pipe said in his letter to City AM last week that you read us the extract from.

**Andrew Boff AM:** So you are standing by the idea that there is not a reduction in the number of homes. Is that correct?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think Jules' [Pipe] letter spells it out.

**Andrew Boff AM:** That is great. I mean if you want to defer just make him the Mayor. You are the Mayor. This is why you are here and not your Deputy Mayor. Do you stand by the claim that the number of homes was not being reduced as indicated by your 'spokesman for Khan', "The Mayor is not reducing the planned number of homes and jobs at Old Oak Common"?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I stand by the letter read out by you by Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe.

**Andrew Boff AM:** OK. You do not stand by what your spokesman has said?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As I said, I am not aware of every spokesperson quote given out by this building. There are dozens every week. What I am willing to do is stand by what Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe wrote in City AM, an extract of which you read out earlier on today.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Do you not have confidence in your spokesman?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have got huge confidence in those who work for me.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you.

We go on, Mr Mayor. In June [2018], at the Housing Strategy Plenary, you told this Assembly that there had not previously been a target in the London Housing Strategy for affordable sized homes. Do you stand by those comments?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In the previous London Plan there is no target, no.

**Andrew Boff AM:** London Housing Strategy and London Plan. There was not one in the London Housing Strategy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In the London Plan.

**Andrew Boff AM:** There was not one in the London --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In the London Plan. No.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yet, at that Plenary, you indicated that there were no targets set in either of the two things -- I will quote you, "As a consequence of points raised by the Assembly I looked back at the previous London Plan and the previous Housing Strategy. There were no targets set in either of those two things in relation to the mix of homes." Do you stand by that, Mr Mayor?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, can I help you, and the Assembly. I have not got before me either the London Plan, the draft London Plan, Housing Strategy, passed by me, by the previous Mayor, or the transcript of the Plenary session. The answer I give is going to be hazy for obvious reasons. Now the obvious thing to do, and the courteous thing to do, if the Assembly wants a full answer, is to give me notice and I will have the papers in front of me. You will appreciate, Mr Chairman, why I cannot answer a specific question about what I said in June [2018], bearing in mind I do various Plenaries and various hearings.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No, Mr Mayor. You ought to be able to confirm that you agree with something that you said. That is all he is asking you to do.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As I just did. As I just did. We are going round in circles, that is all.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Did you confirm that you said that there were no targets set in either those two things - London Plan and Housing Strategy - in relation to the mix of homes? Are you sticking to what you said in June?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am.

**Andrew Boff AM:** You are. Thank you.

Page 29 of the Housing Strategy in --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If I could be given a copy, Mr Chairman.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Of what?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Whatever you are quoting.

**Andrew Boff AM:** It is short. Page 29 of the Housing Strategy --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If I could be given a copy, Mr Chairman --

**Andrew Boff AM:** I will get it for you. I have it marked.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The entire chapter for context would be helpful for me.

**Andrew Boff AM:** There you go.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** And some time to read it as well.

**Andrew Boff AM:** OK. I can also --

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Mr Chairman. He is wasting our time. Can you stop the clock, please?

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes, we will stop the clock whilst it is handed to you.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you very much. Mr Chairman, what do you want me to look at?

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Do you want time to read that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No. I am not sure what I have been asked to look at.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Right. Thank you. On page 29 of the Housing Strategy. It is outlined there.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No. We are starting the clock now.

**Andrew Boff AM:** OK. Yes. Page 29 in the Housing Strategy in 2014 says, "36% of discounted rented homes to be three bedrooms or larger and where there is a specific local need".

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sorry, Mr Chairman, this is the Housing Strategy, not the London Plan.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yes. That is right. You referred, back in June [2018], to both the Housing Strategy and the London Plan and you said there were no targets in either and you have just confirmed to us that that was the case. That before you is the Housing Strategy and it most definitely has a reference to a target.

How is that consistent with your claim that there had not previously been a family homes target in the Housing Strategy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, I have been quite clear in relation to the draft London Plan versus the old London Plan. I am now being asked to consider this document. The question is how is this document consistent with the evidence I gave at the Plenary. Which part of this document does the Assembly Member want me to go to?

**Andrew Boff AM:** I highlighted it for you. There is a tab on the right hand side. Page 29.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Right.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes. This is spinning out time.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I am just trying to get you, Mr Mayor, to confirm what you have already said because the principle of accountability is that when we ask a question we get an accurate and non-misleading reply. That is really what we are trying to get to in this section on accountability.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If it helps, Mr Chairman, I am happy to confirm that the Homes for London, London Housing Strategy, June 2014, under this section Part 2, which is called Setting the Ambition, says, at page 29:

*“The funding prospectus seeks to increase the supply of affordable housing and the provision of new high quality smaller homes for rent to encourage people to move from unoccupied family sized homes. It seeks bids for 36% of discounted rented homes to be three bedroom or larger and, where there is a specific local need, providers are encouraged to make provision for even larger homes of four or more bedrooms. The GLA will review and report on the impact of this policy and, as under occupation is addressed, the Mayor will focus investment in future programmes on a direct proportion of larger homes in line with the 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment.”*

The obvious follow up question, Mr Chairman, is was that target of 36% met?

**Andrew Boff AM:** No, that is not the question, Mr Mayor.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Oh there is a surprise!

**Andrew Boff AM:** That is not the question, Mr Mayor. The question is very clear. You said that no such target existed. Do you now accept that you were mistaken or you were misleading the Assembly?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No, Chairman. Unless I have got the transcript of what I said in the June Plenary session I simply cannot answer.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I have got one of those, if you want that.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I have got a transcript of what you said.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Of my entire session?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Of your entire session.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Oh let us do it. Let us do it.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Perhaps you can provide that to the Mayor, if we can hold the clock?

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes. We will stop the clock. I think, Mr Mayor, when someone is reading something out from a transcript, and he says it is a transcript, I think we should accept that he actually is reading from a transcript.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, that is not the point. The point is you cannot extrapolate two lines from another session without the context of the session being included.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** It seems to me - and it must seem to the people who are watching this and to Members of the Assembly - that you are simply being asked to confirm whether something you said at a previous meeting was something you actually did say.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, if you restart the clock I will go to the page that --

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. OK. Which page of the transcript do you want me to go to?

**Andrew Boff AM:** You have got the tabs. Mr Mayor, I feel for you in your discomfort here because you are now being asked to be held to account for things that you said that are palpably not true. I know that is difficult for you. What Londoners are looking for is for you to own up, Mr Mayor --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sorry, is there a question?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Can you own up, Mr Mayor, to the fact that you were mistaken when you, and your Deputy Mayor for Housing, both said that there were no targets under your predecessor's Housing Strategy.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If it will assist the Assembly, Member Bacon is worried about time, I am very happy to take these away, look at these, write to the Assembly Member, copy in the entire Assembly, so I can clarify any misunderstanding that Assembly Member Boff may be under.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, I would welcome that and I would welcome that to be spread to the rest of the Assembly and, in addition, whether or not, if you find that your comments were inaccurate, whether or not you would apologise both to the Assembly and to Londoners for misleading them?



**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I would be very surprised if I was the wrong one here and you were the right one here but we will see.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you very much.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Have you come to an end, Assembly Member Boff?

**Andrew Boff AM:** I have come to an end.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. There we are.

**Keith Prince AM:** Thank you, Chairman. Mr Mayor, on the subject of accountability, given your role as the Chair of TfL, to what extent do you consider you should be held accountable for decisions made by your Deputy Mayor and/or TfL? Can you confirm that the buck stops with you?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am the Chair of the TfL Board, yes.

**Keith Prince AM:** Sorry. Are you saying that the buck does stop with you or it does not?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Depends which buck we are talking about. I am the Chair of the TfL Board, yes.

**Keith Prince AM:** OK. On 19 July 2018, Crossrail executives reported to the Crossrail Board that - and I quote, "They could no longer have confidence in the date of opening for December [2018]". Your Deputy Mayor for Transport rightly urged a review on the plans for the remaining construction activity. Although you were not at that meeting can you confirm that Heidi Alexander [Deputy Mayor for Transport and Deputy Chair, Transport for London] kept you fully aware of developments?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Towards the end of July 2018 there was concern expressed, by the TfL Board and others, about the pressures and challenges that Crossrail Limited was talking about. Crossrail Limited still thought it could meet the opening of the central section by December 2018 but TfL commissioned a piece of work to be undertaken in relation to the scheduling that Crossrail was telling the TfL Board. That piece of work that was commissioned reported at the end of August 2018 at the special Crossrail Board meeting organised for August 2018. That was the first time that Heidi [Alexander] and myself were aware that the December 2018 opening of the central section would be delayed to the extent that it would not open until autumn 2019.

Throughout the course of the project there have been challenges and pressures before and, to give credit to Crossrail Limited, to be fair to them, in the past it has managed to address the pressures and challenges it has had.

Because the TfL Board, as I understand, at the meeting I was not at that you referred to, because TfL was concerned about some of the scheduling they asked for the additional work to be undertaken which reported back end of August 2018.

**Keith Prince AM:** Are you saying then, Mr Mayor, that you were aware there could be a delay earlier than the date that you initially claimed you were aware, ie after that meeting? Quite rightly, your Deputy Mayor instructed the extra research into the timings and so on, on the remaining amount of work. Did she mention

that to you, just after 19 July 2018, that she had asked for that piece of work to be done? That there was a possibility that there could be a delay?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Put aside the TfL Board meeting for a second. I met with Crossrail Limited people. That includes Sir Terry Morgan CBE [Chairman, Crossrail]. Heidi [Alexander] may have been there. End of July 2018. When they talked about challenges and pressures. As is often the case there are scenarios. What was not told to us then was there would be a delay until August 2019. What we did not have then was the piece of work that TfL commissioned. TfL, before that meeting that I had, had already commissioned this piece of work that came to fruition end of August [2018] at the special Crossrail Board meeting [that was] organised. Just for completeness, neither Heidi nor I sit on the Crossrail Board. There are separate members from Department for Transport (DfT) and TfL who do but it is an autonomous set up.

**Keith Prince AM:** I think we can accept, Mr Mayor, that you were not aware that there would be a nine-month delay until around 29 August 2018. I think we can accept that. The question though is: were you aware there was the potential for any kind of a delay prior to 29 August 2018?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think it would be fair to say one of the scenarios - and there were often different scenarios - probably was delay but nobody talked about -- Crossrail Limited was not saying that scenario was going to happen and Crossrail Limited was not saying that scenario would lead to a delay from December 2018 until August 2019. Until the work commissioned by TfL was done we were not aware of that.

**Keith Prince AM:** You were not aware of any potential delay at all?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No. One of the scenarios that we were given was probably some delay but that was not a scenario that Crossrail Limited envisaged would happen. You are often given different scenarios and timelines. Crossrail Limited was confident, and it has been confident throughout, that the central section of Crossrail would open in December 2018 and the only time where that has moved back to August 2019 is in the late August 2018 meeting that I referred to.

**Keith Prince AM:** Yes. I do not think anybody is challenging your word that it was not until that late date that you were aware there was going to be a nine-month delay but the question is that you were aware there was the potential for a delay but you did not know how long it was going to be.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is even firmer than that. Crossrail Limited was not saying there was going to be a delay even in July 2018. What I am saying to you is one of the scenarios is always - and would have been then - is this possibility of there being a delay. That is not what Crossrail Limited was saying. Because TfL wanted some assurance they asked for this additional work to be commissioned. The additional work was commissioned, I think, in July 2018, around that time. We can give you an exact date. That is what was reported back in August 2018 that actually said that what Crossrail Limited was saying was not quite the case and actually the December 2018 date was not going to be met. To be fair, it was at a Crossrail Limited Board meeting, the extra meeting in August 2018, where that was presented. It was, I think, after that meeting, or around that time, when I was told about the delay to August 2019.

**Keith Prince AM:** You see the issue here, Mr Mayor, is that you are claiming that you -- sorry, on 6 September 2018 at the [London Assembly] Plenary meeting you were saying that you were not aware of any delays until 29 August 2018 but, even from what you were saying, there clearly was a potential for a delay and clearly you were aware of that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think we are talking at cross purposes. The advice given to us by Crossrail up until August 2018, the end of August 2018, was the central section, according to them, was going to be ready by December 2018. That does not exclude the possibility of there being a delay. That was not its advice. It is because of the concerns TfL had in July 2018 that the additional piece of work was commissioned that reported back towards the end of August 2018.

**Keith Prince AM:** Did TfL, or your Deputy Mayor, share those concerns with you? You were aware, Mr Mayor, that there were concerns about this delay. Or the potential for a delay.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The report that was commissioned could have reported back at the end of August 2018 and said, "You know what, Crossrail Limited is correct. It will open in December 2018. We have done this piece of work but you can be reassured it is going to open in 2018, December". That is not what it said. But it is possible it could have said that. You remember the evidence given by the Chief Executive [Simon Wright] and the Chairman [Sir Terry Morgan CBE] that they themselves had people looking in to, separately, "independently", looking in to their work and they were giving them the reassurance that they would be able to meet the timeline. So it is possible that the work commissioned by TfL could have come back at the end of August 2018 and said, "You know what. Crossrail Limited is right. The central section is going to open in December 2018. Albeit one or two stations. It may not be completely finished". There was concern around Bond Street Station. But, again, one of the resolutions was to have some of the exits working and some of the exits closed off so it could carry on doing the improvements to Bond Street Station. So, again, that was one of the things that could have been said.

**Keith Prince AM:** Mr Mayor, where I am trying to get to, I am trying to be helpful in a way. You probably do not accept that. I am trying to establish whether you deliberately or inadvertently misled the Assembly on 6 September 2018. Now I think you have to accept, from what you are saying, that you had knowledge of a potential delay and on 6 September 2018 you said you were not aware until 29 August 2018 but, clearly, from what you have been saying, it is clear you were aware. I have got to ask you did you deliberately, or was it because the way you are arguing now, did you deliberately or did you inadvertently mislead the Assembly?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure if I accept the premise of your question in relation to what we knew and did not know. What I am saying is I am quite clear the first time I was told the central section was not going to open in December 2018 and would be opening in autumn 2019 was towards the end of August 2018. We can give you the exact date. I think I gave it in my session.

Crossrail Limited was not saying to me, and I am sure to the Deputy Mayor, in July 2018, or before then, "We are not going to make December 2018. Let us start planning for autumn 2019". It was because of the work commissioned by TfL in around June/July, I think July 2018, that we got the results back in August 2018, which was independent verification of the position, distinguishing the advice given by Crossrail Limited and the advice given by the work commissioned by TfL.

**Keith Prince AM:** I fully accept, Mr Mayor, I absolutely believe that nobody said to you until 29 August 2018 - I think that was the date - "It is not going to happen". We have examples of --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think, to be fair to me, your previous question was did I advertently or inadvertently mislead the Assembly.

**Keith Prince AM:** Yes. Exactly.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You just said now nobody is suggesting.

**Keith Prince AM:** No, no, no. I am agreeing with you that you did not know absolutely 100% certain until that date but, from the evidence you are giving, you clearly did know something. So, when you made that statement you were possibly inadvertently misleading because you did not recall that you had already had a lot of knowledge that there was a potential for delay.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is worth understanding -- and this was discussed at length at the TfL Board meeting in open session, subsequently as well as previously. Throughout the course of this project often Crossrail come and say, "We have got these challenges. There are these pressures". I give it credit for having a can do attitude and trying to rectify them. It knew it had problems around the west end of Crossrail, around some of the stations, Bond Street, and it had other problems along the course. So simply Crossrail Limited has said there is a challenge or a pressure does not lead to the conclusion it is going to be delayed. Again, to be fair to the current Chief Executive and the previous one, and to the Chair, they did not say there was going to be a delay. What they were saying, and this is an optimism by some engineers, is, "We can find a solution".

What I am saying to you is one of the scenarios in July 2018 may well have been the potential of delay but all the advice we received from Crossrail is that will not materialise. "We will make sure we get the December 2018 date, albeit with some issues around Bond Street and we can work out Bond Street. The central section will be open." It was only when we received the work commissioned by TfL, as one of the joint sponsors, in August 2018, was the recommendation from Crossrail changed when it said, "Actually, you know what, we will not open in December 2018, we are now looking at autumn 2019".

**Keith Prince AM:** OK. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

**Susan Hall AM:** Mr Mayor, can you confirm that you are accountable for MPS officer numbers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What do you mean by accountable? 80% of our funding comes from central Government.

**Susan Hall AM:** No, no, no, no. I am just asking a yes or no question here. Are you actually accountable for the amount of police officers we have? I think you will find the answer should be, "Yes".

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I cannot answer a question in a yes or no format.

**Susan Hall AM:** It is a simple question, Mr Mayor. Are you accountable or are you not? Yes or no?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, the way it works is 80% of our funding comes from central Government.

**Susan Hall AM:** No. The way it works is I ask you a question and it is a yes or no question and you answer. The answer to this actually is, "Yes". So if I go on to the next question. When did you first announce the extra £5 million to recruit more police officers? Shall I help you with the answer to that. It was 22 February 2018. When did the boost to police recruitment begin? Yes. I will help you with that as well. That was 26 September 2018. That was seven months after you announced the money to recruit more police officers. Do you think that is acceptable?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Is that for me?

**Susan Hall AM:** Yes. You might be able to answer this one. Do you think it is acceptable? That is a yes or no as well.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Well, Chairman, if I could explain. The way it works is 80% of the money from --

**Susan Hall AM:** No. Here we go. No. I am just asking simple questions, Mr Mayor, and I would like just simple answers to simple questions. If not, you will filibuster through the rest of our time.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Do you think you could do this in sort of bite size pieces, Mr Mayor? I think the very first question was is it you who is accountable for the number of police?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The answer, Mr Chairman, is that 80% of our funding comes from central Government.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. Yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What happens is a combination of central Government money and monies from London council tax payers provides the budget for the MPS, including special grants we may apply for. That helps us decide on police numbers based on the advice we receive from the Commissioner who is in charge of operational matters.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Forgive me. I am trying to make it easier for both of you. Are you saying that the Government is accountable for 80% of police numbers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** 80% of funding. Correct.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. Does that help?

**Susan Hall AM:** Right. OK. You put an extra £5 million in on 22 February 2018 and the boost to police recruitment began on 26 September 2018. Do you accept that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No. As I have explained, Mr Chairman, when it comes to recruiting police officers it takes, roughly speaking, nine months to recruit police officers and the MPS, each month, loses a significant number of police officers on natural turnover. Because of the last few years there has been no real recruitment over and above filling vacancies for those who have left below the decline we have had, the MPS has not had the expertise to recruit a big number of officers. We have had to scale up the recruiting department of the MPS. Some of this is outsourced. I was able to announce earlier this year, as a consequence of me raising the council tax precept and also contributing money from business rates, additional money for the MPS -- some of this I simply could not spend this year so it was used to pay off some capital and the interest payments were used to do with, for example, mental health practitioners giving advice in basic command units. The time in the interim has allowed them to build up their teams to recruit the officers we do desperately need.

**Susan Hall AM:** Mr Mayor, we do desperately need officers. In February 2018 when you announced the £5 million going in we had 31,000. You were tweeting in July 2018 that the police numbers could go below

30,000 which I presume you knew they would because the August 2018 figures show that they dropped to 29,666. In August 2018 we have got an FOI from The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) stating that there is enough money in the budget for 30,750 yet you spend your life blaming the Government and everybody else for lack of police officers.

The point is you put money in in February 2018 for extra police numbers and they have only just started to recruit in September 2018. Do you think that is acceptable?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, again, can I just explain because obviously there is a misunderstanding here. Each month, roughly speaking, 200 officers leave the MPS. Sometimes it goes up to 300.

**Susan Hall AM:** We all know that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** So the numbers are going to go down every month if there is no recruitment anyway. What has been happening is we recruit at least 200 to 300 every month just to fill the amounts we are losing. Now the idea is not to go below 30,000 if we can but I feared, and it materialised, we went below 30,000.

We invested more money in recruiting police officers but it takes time to build up the recruitment to the levels over and above the 200 to 300 to show the increase from the dip below 30,000. It takes nine months to recruit a police officer. Some of you will have seen the high recruitment drive this autumn as we are now trying to see more officers join the MPS.

**Susan Hall AM:** I think the figures you are throwing out are being misleading. If you have given money in February 2018, £5 million for a recruitment, which we were all around this table very, very happy about, the fact that it took seven months for you to get your act together to start recruiting then, and then they have got to be trained, is totally unacceptable for the people of London. You only have to look at the crime going up and up and up to realise that you should have got your act together in February 2018 when you announced that extra money.

I will leave it there, Chairman, thank you.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, what I find astonishing is the misunderstanding. The amount announced in February 2018 was for the new financial year which began in April 2018. As it is it shows an amazing lack of understanding about how the budgets work. Secondly, Chairman, what you cannot allow surely, as an impartial fair Chairman, is a misleading untruth pretending to be a question made by an Assembly Member when we have seen over the last few years London losing £700 million of money from central Government and a further £300 million over the next two years. Notwithstanding that this Mayor has invested in policing.

**Susan Hall AM:** Chairman?

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes. Mr Mayor, seeking to flatter me about my objectivity does not give you licence to go off on one about lack of --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I was being sarcastic, Chairman. I was not flattering you; I was being sarcastic.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** I see. Well let us go on now, please, to Assembly Member Bacon.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Mr Mayor, who was accountable for the decision to approve the now famous Trump balloon?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Somebody at City Hall.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Somebody at City Hall.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is a team that does this.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** On 19 July 2018, when you were questioned on the same subject by Assembly Member Kurten, you implied the decision was an independent one, as you have just done now, taken by officers without outside interference. Do you stand by that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It was taken by the -- I think it is Operations Team is the name of the team. Operations Team. Not by me.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Mr Mayor, this is a file of emails that was obtained under an FOI request. In it there is an email exchange which took place on 27 April 2018 between the man who planned to fly the blimp and the GLA Events and Lettings Team. They were requesting permission to fly the blimp. The final email from the GLA Events and Lettings Team reads as follows:

*"In the first instance no inflatables of any kind would be permitted in Parliament Square, as stated below, at any time. To clarify, we are potentially dealing with tens of thousands of people in the area, on Whitehall, on either 13 or 14 July 2018. Therefore, to be clear, we cannot consider the inflatable request below and the decision is final."*

Would you agree that that sounds conclusive?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** From what you have read -- it is the first time I am hearing it. Taking the Chairman's advice that I should accept as truth and gospel everything read out, I accept that you are reading it.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Yes. If you doubt it, I am more than happy to send you the email after this exchange.

The FOI also reveals that nothing much happens after that email until an article appeared on 15 June 2018 in *The Guardian*. The article was written by the man who offered to fly the blimp and it was headed, "Come on Sadiq Khan, let our Trump baby blimp fly over London" and the article continued in a similar vein. That is the article there which you are welcome to have. What was your reaction to that article?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I cannot remember. There have been lots of articles about this balloon.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** On the same day that *The Guardian* article appeared there was a flurry of emails between the Director of External and International Affairs, your Director of Political and Public Affairs, your Director of Communications and your Director of Policy. The email exchanges lasted 12 days and included discussions of how to reverse the original decision, the wording of an apology to the event organiser and press lines for you

to use. The exchanges concluded with an email from your Director of International Affairs and others stating, "I think we might need to lean in to this a bit more now. Can you draft something along the lines of us looking at how we can make this happen". The following day an email was sent from the City Operations Lead in your office to the Head of Facilities Management of the GLA telling him, "We are minded to grant the permission and it would be good to get an outline of the next steps so we can approve this sooner rather than later".

Do you deny knowledge that those exchanges took place?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I do, yes.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You do deny that? How interesting. Mr Mayor, the people I have referred to are your political appointees. They are your inner circle. Do you really expect people to believe they did all of this without your sanction?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The decision was taken by the Operations Team. I was not privy to the decision. I am not aware of the emails you are reading out. It is the first time I am hearing about them.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You are trying to persuade the Assembly that people that are your inner circle - and everyone in this room knows that they are your inner circle - are doing this without any of your knowledge?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think, with respect, you are trying to persuade us that this was within my knowledge, rather than me persuading the room --

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You are denying any accountability for this at all. I would have thought you would be proud of this, Mr Mayor, given your track history with the President of the United States. I mean I have got no candle for the President of the United States. I am on record repeatedly of thinking he is slightly a buffoon. I am interested in the accountability of decision making at City Hall. Why are you denying any accountability for this at all?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The decision on whether it is the blimp of myself or the President of the United States or anybody else, that decision is taken by the Operations Team, subject to the criteria that there is; lawful, peaceful, safe and all those sorts of things.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You said they were independent and the decision was taken without any outside pressure. I have just demonstrated to you, and there are emails to back this up --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think what I said was they are not decisions taken by me. Taken by the Operations Team. Actually, the phrase I used was others inside City Hall and then it was put to me, by you, who the team were, and I accept that.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You said you were not involved in the decision making at all. Do your directors not act with your --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I was not involved in the decision making.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** It is quite interesting that it seems that your directors make decisions on your behalf without your sanction. That is an interesting governance arrangement, is it not?



**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I was not involved in the decision making of the balloon.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Are you involved in any decision making at City Hall, Mr Mayor?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, this is the problem when you are being such a great impartial Chairman and that is what I meant by my sarcasm. Because the question is do I make any decisions? Of course I make lots of decisions in this administration.

The proposition being put to me is I was responsible for permission being granted for the balloon of Donald Trump [President of the United States of America]. I have said quite clearly on a number of occasions I was not responsible. It was others in this building that made the decision. The Assembly Member is making the point that I should be proud of this decision. My problem is of course I like taking credit for things that are extremely popular. I am afraid I cannot take credit for this one.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Mr Mayor, you are the Mayor of London which means that the buck stops with you. From exchanges that we have had in here this morning it is blatantly apparent that you have been misleading people about housing targets and strategies and numbers and you have given some very flaky answers around police numbers. You have even been misleading people about something as trivial as about who took the decision about flying a balloon in Parliament Square. Why should Londoners believe anything that you are saying?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, I am sure you will allow me to answer that question. Even you will allow me to answer that question, Mr Chairman. In relation to police numbers I have been quite clear that, notwithstanding the massive cuts made by central Government, I will do my bit by our police. I am pro police, unlike this Government. That is why I have invested records amounts, £5 million --

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Chairman --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** You have dealt with the police thing. Go to the next one.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am really sorry, Chairman. What was put to me is that I have given flaky numbers on housing, on police numbers --

**Gareth Bacon AM:** The question that I asked him, Mr Chairman, is why anyone should believe anything he says. That is the question he needs to answer.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No argument between the two of you on this.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Oh there is, Mr Chairman.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** You asked if you could answer the point on the policing. You did. Now you have sought to expand that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I know. I am really sorry, Mr Chairman. Even you have got to accept he also raised flaky housing numbers.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Yes.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Deal with that one.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Let me deal with the housing numbers. Last year --

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Mr Chairman.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Last year we began a record number of genuinely affordable homes in this city.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** No. This is filibustering, Mr Chairman. This is a waste of time. These questions have already been asked and answered.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We also have had record numbers of social rented homes. They are not flaky numbers; they are real numbers.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. You have dealt with that one. Was there another one you wanted to rebut?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There was. He also raised the issue of the balloon.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** The question was why anyone should believe a word that he says because he is clearly not telling the truth.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** He also raised the issue of the balloon. In relation to the balloon I have been quite clear I was not responsible for permission being granted to the balloon of myself or of President Trump.

He also raised the issue about transport so let me deal with the issue of transport. I have been quite clear that in relation to the decision to delay the opening of the central section of Crossrail from December 2018 --

**Gareth Bacon AM:** This is not related to my question, is it? Chairman, I must insist that you stop this because this is filibustering of the highest order. --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** -- autumn 2019. I was not aware until the end of August 2018.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Again, you have now dealt with that. If I can endeavour to bring some order in to this. You are quite clear, Mr Mayor, as I have heard it, you took no part in the decision to fly the balloon. Is that right?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Correct, Mr Chairman.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** That is not the question I asked, Mr Chairman. We are out of time. Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Is that it? Is he out of time? You have time. You have time.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** No, Mr Chairman, I do not.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** You have finished.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** He is out of ideas, Mr Chairman, not questions.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No, no, no.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is the problem here. Pre-scripted questions written by researchers, Chairman. That is why you should think for yourself.

## **2018/2558 - 999 calls**

[Caroline Pidgeon AM](#)

*Are you currently satisfied with MPS' response times?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Responding to emergency calls is a fundamental and vital responsibility of the MPS and Londoners expect that, in a time of need, help will be there in time. The challenges faced in London and the MPS are not to be taken lightly. Funding cuts to London means that the MPS must deliver its services with fewer officers, the lowest number since 2003, and the lowest per head of population in 20 years. This, without taking in to the consideration the huge number of visitors our city has, adding to our daily population.

The MPS' primary focus is on responding to emergency calls, I Grade or Immediate Grade calls, within 15 minutes. These calls are those in which Londoners need urgent help. The latest data shows that the MPS has achieved this in 86% of responses. Both I, and the Commissioner, want this to be even higher. The MPS's own target is to respond to 90% of immediate calls within 15 minutes. Immediate call response performance has been relatively stable over the past few years with a figure of 86% of calls responded to within 15 minutes reported back in April 2016, despite a significant increase in 999 calls. In August 2018 there were over 195,000 emergency 999 calls compared to, in April 2018, 149,000 calls. Increase in 999 call demand is a challenge that police forces across the county are having to deal with.

I know there were some specific problems with response times when the new Basic Command Unit (BCU) model was rolled out in Camden and Islington, BCU Central North and in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge, BCU East. The performance then was not good enough. I am pleased to say that has now improved the levels before the BCU model came in. BCU Central North now is on 94% of immediate calls responded to within 15 minutes.

I am also aware there have been delays in answering 101 calls. The MPS has assured me that it is working hard to improve this by recruiting additional staff to help deal with the rising demand. An increase that has been observed not just in the MPS but across the country.

There is ongoing work across the MPS to maintain and improve the emergency response services to Londoners. This includes ensuring the closest vehicle is always dispatched to the call, reviewing the number of emergency response drivers in each operational team and ensuring that the most appropriate response is provided to each caller, according to their needs and the level of risk.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Thank you for that. Looking at the emergency response times for the second highest priority calls, these are significant calls, we know the MPS has a 60-minute maximum target to respond to these calls but in June 2018 the average was over 64 minutes across the whole of London with some boroughs over two hours. Is this acceptable?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What is not acceptable is using a metric of measurement that the MPS do not use. What the MPS use as a metric of measurement is numbers of calls responded within 60 minutes. Calls that are not an immediate priority are graded as S, Significant. The MPS aims to respond to 90% of S calls within 60 minutes. The latest data towards the end of August 2018 shows that 80% of S calls were responded to within 60 minutes. This is four percentage points higher than the previous month, July 2018, which was 76%. The MPS is rightly focusing on immediate calls, as these are the urgent calls that require immediate attention. Both the Commissioner and I want to get the significant calls that are responded within 60 minutes higher than they currently are.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** These are figures that I got from you in a Mayoral answer. In June 2018 the average response time in Redbridge is one hour 45 minutes. In Wandsworth one hour 49 [minutes]. In Newham one hour 51 [minutes]. Are you happy that someone who has been the victim of, say, hate crime, a burglary, or a road collision in Barking and Dagenham could be waiting over two hours for the police to show up. Does that concern you?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not happy at all if people who need the help of the police are not receiving this. It is worth reminding the Assembly that, as a consequence of the cuts made by central Government - by the way it was a Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government - we have had major cuts in police resources. The priority of the police must be officer numbers, also dealing with the 999 immediate calls. You will appreciate there have been some concerns in relation to the increase in 999 calls the police are receiving.

Given a choice, with finite resources, facing massive cuts, on dealing with 101 calls or significant calls, or dealing with immediate calls, I do not criticise the police for dealing with the immediate calls. As I have said, for parts of London that is now at 94% within 15 minutes. I have given you the figures in relation to the most recent calls for significant. It is not good enough but it is 80% within 60 minutes when the MPS aims to respond to 90% of calls within 60 minutes. The MPS is recruiting more call handlers. Over the past six months the number of vacancies has fallen from 270 to 130 and these measures have increased the ability of the police to respond.

But of course I am not happy that anybody who needs the help of the police is not receiving the help of the police. Even if it is not immediate people still want a police officer within 60 minutes.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Absolutely. I am pleased you said that there are additional staff being recruited but one thing that all of these boroughs with appalling response times have in common is they are where your police mergers have gone live. Last year you explicitly said that emergency response times would be used to monitor the success of your police borough mergers. Clearly, they are not a success, given these poor response times. Can you give a guarantee to Londoners today that, as your borough mergers continue to be rolled out, there will be no further fall in response times?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Again, Mr Chairman, the problem of asking a question where the question is based on false premises is wrong because I have given an example

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** They are your figures, Mr Mayor.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have given you the example of the BCU in the North, Camden, Islington, where 94% of calls are being responded to, that are immediate calls, within 50 minutes. 94%. The aim is for 90%. You said in your question that actually what this demonstrates - and I am paraphrasing - is the BCUs have a poor response time. I have given you the evidence which is that is not the case.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Some people are waiting over two hours.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. No, you are out of time, Assembly Member Pidgeon.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am quite clear that we need to make sure that members of the public receive a swifter response. I am not going to apologise for investing in immediate calls and it is really important we continue to do so.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. Thank you for that, Mr Mayor.

## **2018/2843 - Brexit & Transport**

[Florence Eshalomi AM](#)

*How will transport services in London be affected if the UK leaves the EU without a deal?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. A no deal Brexit should be unthinkable but we are now in real danger of that becoming a reality. Any kind of Brexit could result in fewer jobs, less prosperity and a reduced role for Britain on the world stage but it could also negatively impact our transport services.

As the National Audit Office has confirmed to Parliament, there would be an immediate stop on flights in and out of the UK if we end up with a no deal Brexit. Barriers to trade, tourism and business will also clearly have an impact on demand for public transport within London. Forget no deal. Even a bad Brexit would reduce transport fare revenues and could create financial difficulties for Transport for London.

TfL is therefore modelling the potential impact on different Brexit scenarios through this year's TfL business planning process. It is important to note that the European Investment Bank (EIB) is a very important source of borrowing for TfL enabling it to invest in Crossrail, London Overground, London Underground and the Docklands Light Railway (DLR). TfL is currently borrowing £3.3 billion from the EIB which provides more flexibility, more certainty and lower interest rates than other sources. Of the £3.3 billion currently being borrowed by TfL the oldest outstanding loan goes back to 2006. However, TfL does not expect to be able to borrow from the EIB after March 2019 and that is why I am calling on the Government to ensure an equivalent borrowing facility is opened to TfL.

In terms of the people who run London's transport system and construct and maintain the infrastructure TfL estimates that around 1,600 staff and contractors are EU citizens. TfL is monitoring access to their skills and the risk of wage inflation pressures depending on the type of Brexit. It is also reviewing the resilience of its supply chain.

I am determined to make sure we are as prepared as possible in London in case of a no deal Brexit, including our transport services, and I know that TfL is working hard to develop contingency plans for all these issues and that more detail will be available when the business plan is published later this year.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, and I will definitely be looking out for that business plan. It is good to see that TfL is monitoring that.

One of the things that I have picked up on - and I am sure you have as well, and other colleagues - when you are speaking to TfL staff, the range of them from different EU nationality backgrounds. In a written reply to my colleague, Assembly Member Dismore, in February 2017, you said that TfL does not actually collect the data where the staff members from the EU citizens are from. I think, in light of that, a no deal Brexit deal would have a massive impact on these people. Do you think that TfL should start actually maybe thinking it is a priority to look at where any, and if any, EU citizens they employ?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** TfL estimates -- and it is an estimation; I cannot give you the assurance that it is concise. There are 1,600 staff and contractors who are EU citizens. The workforce of TfL of permanent staff, put aside contractors, is roughly speaking 27,000. You are right; it would be easier if we had specific numbers. The aim over the next period is to make sure we give the advice in relation to the online portal but also Government's policies around Government Settlement Scheme, other issues, to TfL staff, including contractors, and try to make sure it reaches those TfL staff who need it the most, in other words EU citizens. But you are right; we have got to make sure across London, not just TfL, that all Londoners who are EU citizens understand what is coming round the corner.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** That would be good. If we could get some figures.

The other thing that I was concerned about is the fact that you may be aware that TfL's ability to actually pay some of those staff and some of them who may require the two tier visa. The requirement for that is that you have to be earning over £30,000. What proportion of TfL staff currently earn £30,000 and what would happen if they cannot get a visa?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** To remind colleagues, the way the Government's recommendations and the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) sort of endorsed this was for Tier 2 of £30,000 they have a better system. Those who are not Tier 2 below £30,000 there is a less good system. Of the staff we have we think 13% are on less than £30,000 per annum. These 13% are crucial to the operations of TfL and you can sort of calculate what percentage of those would be non-Brits, EU citizens, or others. Clearly, if it is the case that Tier 2 is given priority that has a huge knock on effect on our ability to run an unaffected transport system. That is one of the reasons why I will be responding to the Government's white paper and one of the reasons why I am so unhappy with the recommendations made by MAC.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Lastly, Mr Mayor, you alluded to the work of the Business Planning Group and you touched on some of the issues and things that TfL has in terms of contracts and borrowing. The other big one is around services and a future relationship with the EU. Has TfL started to identify (1) what services we buy from the EU and (2) what services we sell? Essentially, if we do not have a single market that could have a big impact on future contracts.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You have articulated one of the problems with all those who were talking about the glory days once we left the EU. If it is the case that our regulatory framework is different to the EU how can we sell them our stuff? If it is the case that services we do, which is frictionless trade with the EU and

with other members of the single market, how can we carry on trading with them in the same way we are? This is a huge source of concern not just to TfL but other businesses across London.

By the way, the Chequers Plan -- let us assume, for argument's sake, in some sort of parallel universe the Conservative Party accept the Chequers Plan. The Chequers Plan was only about frictionless trade for goods. Completely omitted to mention services. 90% of our economy in London is services.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor.

## **2018/2905 - Brexit**

[Peter Whittle AM](#)

*I note the recent news that the luxury brand Chanel has announced that its new international headquarters will be in London and that Unilever has cancelled its decision to move its headquarters to the Netherlands and will remain in London.<sup>1</sup> I also note that that the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant RELX has also decided to move its headquarters to London. Isn't this all good news for London and Londoners, despite the continued fear-mongering by the Remainer tendency and its cheerleaders in the mainstream media?*

<sup>1</sup> Worth around £33 billion, RELX is the parent company of a number of publishers, including Elsevier, Reed, LexisNexis and MLex.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. London's incredibly creative energy has made our city a leading capital for innovation, business and culture. This has developed over time and is built upon strong foundations. Our legal system is world renowned and instills confidence in investors. Our regulation is fair and our tax rates competitive. London's opportunities, its culture and now even its food, make it a hugely attractive place for the world's leading businesses and talented people. That is why I have maintained, since the referendum, that, despite the challenges of Brexit, London's appeal as a place to do business will endure.

We cannot ignore that Brexit has created uncertainty about London's future. I launched the #LondonIsOpen campaign to showcase to the world that the capital remains open to international talent, trade and investment. I have led delegations from our International Business programme forging new business links and banging a drum for London. I have also provided additional funding to London & Partners to expand significantly its services' footprint in five of the key markets of Paris, Berlin, Bangalore, Shenzhen and Chicago.

Of course, I welcome the recently announced investment by Chanel and also welcome Unilever's decision to keep its headquarters in London. Though I understand it will not mean any changes to the operations here we welcome RELX Group choosing London as a home for its new consolidated parent company.

However, looking at the possible impacts of Brexit on London, it would be foolish to look at recent investments in isolation and it is important to remember that we have not actually left the EU yet. There is no doubt that the economic damage of a mismanaged Brexit would be hard felt by a large number of London's key sectors who rely on trade with the EU. Thousands of jobs in the financial services sector alone could be forced to move to the continent.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor, for that answer, which is almost exactly as I imagined it would be. Mr Mayor, you would agree that this is Mayor's Question Time, would you not?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes.

**Peter Whittle AM:** And you would agree that basically in order for it to actually work as it should there are various conventions that people should undertake and basically should agree to, to have a proper discussion? I hope you would agree with that. I take your silence to mean that you would. You might also possibly agree that many people in the audience will not know that time is allotted under a different system so we have very little time. I want to use it, with your indulgence, Mr Mayor, if I can, to make something of a point of order. I want a retraction, an apology from you, basically for defaming the integrity of my Party --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No. No, no, no. No. Assembly Member --

**Peter Whittle AM:** -- and, more importantly, my colleague. Using words like Nazi, using words like dictatorship --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No. NO. Be quiet.

**Peter Whittle AM:** No. I will not be quiet.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Be quiet.

**Peter Whittle AM:** They used their time to attack us.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** You must seek to deal with this by way of a question. You could ask the Mayor, "Does he agree with what the Assembly Member said about" --

**Peter Whittle AM:** Oh really. Oh that is really going to be productive, is it not, Mr Chairman. Come on.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** That way you get your message over.

**Peter Whittle AM:** I have to use the time I have and I will not stand by and have that kind of slander in this place. We play by the rules here and we always have. You should, too. I want you to apologise to my friend for using words like Nazi and dictatorship and all the rest of it. You might not agree with us but the fact is that is right.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** No. Assembly Member Whittle. If you are going to make a complaint make a complaint through the formal channels. I think everybody has already accepted --

**Peter Whittle AM:** I was courteous to the Mayor. I was courteous to the Mayor.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Everybody has already accepted that you have a complaint about what the Assembly Member said. We have all heard that. Now put that through the proper machinery. You are now wasting all of our time by not seeking to ask the Mayor - and you are the one who has just made this point - a question --

**Peter Whittle AM:** I asked the Mayor from the word go.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Is that it? You are going to make a complaint through the formal channels. Is that how you are going to deal with the matter?



**Peter Whittle AM:** It was not dealt with in the way maybe it should have been at the time so maybe that is what I should do.

## **2018/2842 - Food after Brexit**

[Len Duvall AM](#)

*What preparations are in place to ensure that Londoners have access to affordable and nutritious food when/if we leave the EU?*

**Len Duvall AM:** Interesting to know about the priorities of those on the other side. Handbags and perfume. I am very pleased I can be able to buy those in a post-Brexit future. Will I be able to eat, Mr Mayor? In terms of the concerns that I have and the question I want to pose to you is about the stockpiling of food that the Government is planning to do. It has even appointed a Minister for overseas supplies of food. In light of the Stena Line announcement this morning along with that food prices are likely to rise when the UK leaves the EU, particularly in a no deal scenario, are you planning to meet the new Minister and when will you be meeting about discussions of food supplies for Londoners?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, can I just, in beginning my answer to the Assembly Member's question, make the point that 30% - 30% - of UK's food comes directly from the EU. Another 11% arrives under EU deals with third countries outside the EU. Now there is a distinct possibility that we will leave the EU very shortly without a transitional deal and that should cause concern to not just Londoners but those across the country. It is obvious that lengthy delays at EU and UK borders, especially for fresh food, will put enormous pressure on our restaurants, supermarkets and families on the lowest income.

My officials are already speaking to Government officials. Assembly Member Twycross is chairing an important piece of work around our resilience as a city. In addition to the concerns raised by Dr Sahota around medicines, in addition to the concerns raised by Assembly Member Desai around security, the basic thing as food should be a huge source of concern to us moving forward.

By the way, they did not talk about this during the campaign to leave the EU, and that is what we are left with.

**Len Duvall AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. The next question is withdrawn; the question on spit guards. We now go to Assembly Member Shah's question on post-Brexit immigration.

## **2018/2885 - Post Brexit Immigration**

[Navin Shah AM](#)

*What support can you provide to ensure that London's economy has the skills it needs to thrive when/if the UK leaves the EU?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. London's success is built on a combination of top home grown talent and the fact that so many talented people from around the world have chosen to come here to contribute their skills to our economy. All of the business leaders I have spoken to since the referendum have stressed the importance of maintaining London's access to talent after Brexit. Many believe

that new restrictions on their ability to recruit the right range of skills from Europe is one of the biggest Brexit risks they face.

That is why I was so disappointed with the recent report in to post-Brexit immigration by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC's recommendations would not do enough to protect London's access to talent following a hard Brexit that took us out of the single market. The MAC has not fully considered the strong contribution of European workers in London's construction sector, nor other important sectors. Those workers perform a vital role in ensuring London continues as a world leading city. The MAC's approach risks creating major skills shortages in London which would be a severe detriment to our economy.

Given those major concerns about the MAC report I do not welcome the indications from the Government that it plans to take forward some of the key recommendations in their upcoming immigration white paper. My office is currently working closely with London's business community to determine how we should respond.

What is vitally important is that we protect our access to international talent. The three big things that we will be doing is making sure we use the devolution of adult education, to make sure we shape the skills agenda to address the issues and concerns caused. Secondly, we will be launching a £71 million European Social Fund programme and this includes a sector based approach to support Londoners in areas that are set to be affected significantly by Brexit. Thirdly, the new Construction Academy and Digital Talent programme which are already being delivered. We need to make sure we focus on those skill shortages caused by the hard Brexit.

**Navin Shah AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. The Government's current approach seems to be towards allowing highly skilled workers only post-Brexit. Now you mentioned in one of the earlier responses that there is something like 100,000 EU construction workers within the sector in London. What economic impact will there be post-Brexit on catering and construction industries, for example, which rely on generally low skilled workers or workers who will not qualify as high quality workers in that definition in the immigration policy which Government might promote?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Some of these jobs are jobs that are essential for the running of our city. You mentioned hotels, restaurants, hospitality, construction, social care. A lot of these jobs do not pay £30,000 or more, they pay below £30,000, so they will not qualify for Tier 2. The idea that we would be without these workers in London as a consequence of an extreme hard Brexit is causing the business community huge concern. We have recently surveyed the business community on a diverse range of businesses and they are extremely worried about the consequences of an extreme hard Brexit and the obligations that are going to be placed upon them. You will have seen reports in the media about some farmers not planting certain crops because they will not be able to have the fruit pickers they need when it comes to the relevant season. It is a real source of concern.

**Navin Shah AM:** Yes. Last question, Mr Mayor. You mentioned the trading programme etc. Have you lobbied Government to establish some form of emergency programme for training to replace the skills lost through declining inward migration?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Some people might say that you asking the question is scaremongering. But hold on a second. If we have an extreme hard Brexit with no transition from March 2019 we could be without certain people so you are right to ask the question. Our officials are talking to the Government about the need of an emergency programme. That is one of the things that Assembly Member Twycross's Resilience Forum will be looking in to. Our officials are talking about whether there will be a need. We are hoping still, at

this eleventh hour, we will not have a no deal situation or an extreme hard deal without transition but we have got start planning for that now.

**Navin Shah AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Grateful for that.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Mr Mayor, I want to return back to the issue of Brexit and the NHS. We were told that we will get £350 million extra for the NHS, and that will not happen. What we were not told was that the nurses, the social care, the carers, and the doctors from the EU would be leaving us. One in ten NHS staff are from the EU. Is there any signs that this Government understands the need that the Brexit deal should preserve the co-recognition qualifications across us and in Europe?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** So far there is no good news to tell you. There are some elements of good news in relation to the temporary exemption of doctors and nurses from the Tier 2 cap. Only temporary exemption. It is still the case we have got record numbers of empty nursing vacancies in London. It is still the case that NHS doctors are worried about the consequences of us leaving the EU. You are right to remind us; things like recognition of qualifications will be affected and jeopardised by an extreme hard Brexit or a no deal. You will be aware, from colleagues of yours in the NHS, whether they are doctors, nurses, radiographers or others, who may have qualifications in the EU and the co-recognition means we can work there and they can work here. Again, another example of when there is no alignment of regulations or recognition the consequences can be pretty dire.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. The Department of Health's response to the Government's consultation on the migration after Brexit underlined the vital contribution of the EU workers. Yet the Government's new system keeps a £30,000 minimum salary requirement which shuts out nurses, social care workers and pharmacists. What can you do to mitigate the impact that this will have on health and social care in London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The practical thing we are going to do is respond to the Government's white paper which is out shortly. As I said, I am disappointed the Government appears to be accepting the MAC recommendations. You are right; people who work in the NHS do not do it for the money. Quite clearly they do not because a lot of them you are talking about are crucial and below £30,000. If the Government sticks with a Tier 2 priority at the expense of those who are not receiving £30,000 at a time we know there are not people here who will do the social care work, will do the nursing work, will do the hospitality work that Assembly Member Shah referred to, these will be vacancies that affect businesses and our ability to be a thriving city. I am genuinely concerned about the consequences of either a bad deal or no deal. One of the reasons why I will be marching tomorrow is to try to persuade the Government to give the public a say on choosing whether we accept the negotiations done by the Government or we stay in the EU.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Finally, the official Migration Advisory Committee report on Brexit says that the reason we rely on social workers from Europe is because they are so low paid in the sector. The reports says Conservative councils have made this even worse. What can you do to help develop the social care workforce while you wait for the Government to come to its senses and start being the real investment that is needed in the NHS?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is one of the things I found astonishing about the MAC report. It must have known, surely, that one of the reasons why local authorities are having to make cutbacks and not be able to pay social care staff the amounts they would like is because of cuts imposed by central Government. It may not like it when I talk about central Government cuts but that is the reality. For the MAC to make that

recommendation, if you simply pay them more, they get above £30,000 you get more people applying for these jobs, is not realistic in the context of the cuts we have seen. If it is the case that the Prime Minister was being honest when she said the time of austerity is over what you would expect in the budget that takes place in the next couple of weeks is an announcement from the Chancellor of huge investment in local authorities, huge investment in the NHS, huge investment in skills training that will allow us to pay Brits, in the words of the MAC committee, the wages that some of these people deserve. I doubt it.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Let us wait and see. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

## **2018/2509 - Post Brexit Immigration**

[Sian Berry AM](#)

*In light of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee report, A Long way from home, published in July 2018, what are you doing to support women's centres in London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Thanks for your question. In March 2018 I announced funding of £4.8 million for services to support the rehabilitation of female offenders in the community. This includes investment to maintain London's two existing women's centres in addition to funding a new centre from 2019. I have welcomed the [London Assembly Police and Crime] Committee's report which is a significant examination of provision for female offenders in London. Central Government has done too little in this area since the publication of Baroness Jean Corston's [Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party] report over ten years ago. The sudden closure of Her Majesty's Prison Holloway has removed key resources for the rehabilitation of women offenders in London and there is yet to be any real investment of any savings back in to London. Female offenders are low volume but they have high levels of vulnerability and there is strong evidence showing that investment in women's centres and specialist provision can have a significant impact on reducing reoffending.

Our Police and Crime Plan includes effective diversion in the community intervention as a key commitment. Since its publication I have committed over £5 million to support the rehabilitation of female offenders in London, including £4.6 million investment in the existing women's centre and the new women's centre, and a further £500,000 has been committed for services to support police diversion.

In contrast, the Government, who has a statutory responsibility to provide funding, has recently invested only £3.5 million across the whole of England and Wales. We are yet to find out which share will be coming to London.

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) there is a commitment to working together to develop a whole systems approach with the Justice Secretary. We think this should include looking at opportunities for financial devolution to empower London to deliver this. MOPAC and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and wider partners are working towards developing a blueprint for responding to female offending. Of course, I will make sure the [London Assembly Police and Crime] Committee is involved in that work as well.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. Just a couple of follow up questions and thank you for your response to the report as well. During our investigation we heard about the development of a pilot project to help divert women from the criminal justice system. I think you just said £500,000 was going in to that. The Police and Crime Plan published in March last year [2017] said this was something you were going to do and it was planned for summer 2018. Then, in your response to our report, you said it would start later

this year. Then the MPS' response to the report said it would start in early 2019. Can you confirm and make it clear when the pilot will actually start and say why there has been such a delay?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure. Yes. I think it is more cock up than conspiracy with the language of the MoU being agreed with the MoJ. I think the current Justice Secretary has been very good, David Gauke [Secretary of State for Justice], in meeting with us, getting his officials to move fast. The MoU is now done. The way the finances work means we could not do it in the year we would like to do it. We are going to go as quickly as we can. Again, we will work with you to make sure you are updated with developments and stuff. But there is no conspiracy or reason for the delay except for the delay in the MoU and making sure we can spend the money in the right time as soon as we can.

**Sian Berry AM:** Do you have a date for the pilot to start there?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I can contact you. I will get my office to contact you about when we think it will start.

**Sian Berry AM:** OK. Great. You also talked about Holloway Prison closing. That was in November 2015 and the site has been completely empty since. It still has not been sold but the Prison Minister says it will be sold at the end of 2018, now. Realistically, though, that is still probably years before the site is actually starting development. Campaigners have called for a women's centre to be included in the new plans. But, given your support for meanwhile use, will you try to negotiate with the Ministry of Justice to open the visitor building that is sitting outside of the prison walls on the Holloway site for the community to use as a women's centre during this period while we are waiting for development to start?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think what I would say is what we want is the Government to start investing now in services for women and not wait for the site to be sold off because they know it is going to be sold off and it will make its money back.

**Sian Berry AM:** I am talking about right now. That building is just empty.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is no reason why the Government cannot reinvest Holloway prison proceeds now. The council, as part of its development brief, includes the possibility of a women's centre being there, including affordable housing.

As far as meanwhile use is concerned it is really an issue for the council to look in to with anybody who wants to use the visitor centre for meanwhile use. My only concern would be is history tells us that meanwhile use can become blurry in relation to when people will leave but also I would not want that to be at the expense of a permanent presence of a visitor centre or women's centre in London. What I would rather do is lobby for investment in permanent facilities in London rather than meanwhile use being used as an excuse not to invest in the provision of services for women who need it.

**Sian Berry AM:** No, I agree. Will you discuss that with the Ministry of Justice and maybe convene the council and the Ministry to see what can be done just in the meantime?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, what I am happy to do is speak to the Assembly Member for the area and the council about what they think. I always think the best thing to do is speak to those on the ground. I am happy to speak to the Assembly Member and the council about that.

**Sian Berry AM:** Fantastic.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** All right. OK. Thank you very much. The next question is withdrawn and we go on to Assembly Member Arnold's question on London's science, technology and maths education.

## **2018/2728 - London's science, technology and maths education**

[Jennette Arnold AM](#)

*How is the Mayor supporting young Londoners to gain the science, technology and maths (STEM) skills necessary to maintain London's status as a science and technology leader when/if the UK leaves the EU?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am incredibly proud of London's leading position in science and technology. London is home to international research institutes, global tech giants, thriving start ups and boasts some of the highest ranking universities in the world. I am concerned by the Government's handling of Brexit. Innovation within science and technology relies hugely on international collaboration. It is essential that more young Londoners have the skills and aspirations to secure science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs. Although we outperform the rest of the country - over half of the students in London still leave education without a good maths GCSE - we know that many face barriers to entering STEM careers. Just 14% of the UK's STEM workforce are women. This is a shocking waste of talent when we know girls are good at STEM, outperforming boys at school in these subjects. In tech just 15% of workers are from BAME backgrounds. This does not reflect the demographics of the UK and certainly does not reflect London.

This under-representation means there is a huge untapped potential. Our London Scientist programme provides funding to support 5,000 school children from under-represented backgrounds to gain the CREST award, the top national accreditation scheme for school STEM projects. We are due to launch £71 million European Social Fund programme which will include a major project to support unemployed young people in STEM careers. This adds to the £40 million we are investing through the Digital Talent programme and our Construction Academy.

It is important that all children get to develop STEM skills early. However, research shows that STEM toys are three times more likely to be advertised to boys than girls. Gender stereotyping like this is unacceptable as it narrows children's options from the very beginning. Deputy Mayor Joanne McCartney [AM] and I are holding an equal pay event on 29 October 2019 to explore what gender equality means for children. Toy manufacturers, retailers, Government charities and educators will come together to tackle cross-sector challenges.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. You have been lobbied a lot on this so thank you for that really full answer. I want to ask you to focus on the educators - if I use the phrase E27 nationals - and really the support they are going to need in order to navigate one of the most complex administrative eligibility minefields that they will have to face, if I can say with the less than efficient Home Office in charge of it. Would you agree with me that the support that you are giving, a great deal of that, will have to be targeted at this group given that, without them, without these teachers, without these passionate committed teachers, then we will just be stepping backwards?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely right. Just to reassure you, because you are right to remind me of this, one of the big pieces of work that Deputy Mayor Joanne McCartney is doing is in relation to the work

with the people we are talking about; the various campaigns from the Teach London project, other work I am doing with Tes to encourage, particularly in London, the issue we have with recruitment and retention is a big issue. We want to make sure that we get the educators in the right places. A lot of this is not simply using the internet to signpost but face to face stuff as well and giving that sense of confidence is really important.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM:** OK. Thank you very much.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** The next question has been withdrawn. We have Assembly Member Desai's question on modern day slavery.

## **2018/2759 - Modern day slavery**

[Unmesh Desai AM](#)

*How are you working to improve multi-agency partnerships across London to tackle modern day slavery?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Thank you for this timely question in the week of Anti Slavery Day which took place yesterday and thank you, Assembly Member Desai for your continued work to raise awareness of this important issue.

Modern slavery and the trafficking of people are truly appalling crimes. These crimes have no place in our city or anywhere else in the world. The MPS takes a central role in tackling modern slavery building on the excellent work started by the previous Commissioner, Lord Hogan-Howe, and continued by Commissioner Cressida Dick. Officers work in the capital and internationally to tackle the organised criminal network so often behind trafficking and slavery. The MPS also has a key role in providing support for victims. The dedicated Modern Slavery and Kidnap Unit deals with all referrals of modern slavery through the national referral mechanism working closely with the voluntary and community sectors to identify the appropriate support for victims.

Delivering on our commitment in my Police and Crime Plan we are bringing partners together to look at how we can work collectively by sharing intelligence and best practice, developing whole system approaches, and pooling resources to target our response. Accordingly, the London Modern Slavery Partnership Board was established in June 2017 and meets quarterly commissioning work focused on improving the identification of victims and the provision of support to them.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Three questions. Thank you, again, for all the work you have done in this area and also for supporting my budgetary proposals to do work in this area. Yesterday was Anti Slavery Awareness Day. Do you think the insecure immigration status of many victims of modern day slavery is having an impact on their confidence to come forward and report offences? This is an area that you and your Deputy Mayor have spoken about and my group has actually produced a report with the subtitle, 'Give them the confidence and safety to report offences'. Can you give me your thoughts on insecure immigration and the confidence, or lack of it, of victims, because of their status, to come forward?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As a combination of the representations you have made, the Deputy Mayor and also the Victims' Commissioner, Claire Waxman, have done some work on this. There is a real concern that the hostile environment means that victims who have not got secure immigration status here will be scared to come forward for fear of being reported and then deported from the UK. Earlier this year I wrote to the Home Secretary asking for a number of changes to current processes to ensure that all victims of abuse

have the confidence to report a crime and their abusers to the relevant authorities so that justice can be done. We continue to keep an eye on this.

The MPS understands the duties upon it - and there are duties upon it - in relation to what happens when there is somebody with unsecured immigration status. We have got to make sure people are not deterred from coming forward because of the concerns they have about the hostile environment causing adverse consequences to them.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Indeed. Moving on. In terms of the Brexit debate. What would the impact of the loss of European databases have on the ability to prevent and prosecute trafficking across European bodies?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a huge source of concern. If you speak to the experts, whether it is the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, others involved in this area, they will tell you that the work we do with European partners is hugely beneficial not just in terms of tackling modern slavery but other areas of crime as well. The short answer is it will lead to things becoming slower, more cumbersome, more burdensome, more expensive. It will unravel the human framework of cooperation we had. And it is a gift for traffickers. It is a gift for criminals. You can bet your bottom dollar they are hoping for no deal. They are hoping for an extreme hard Brexit so the police experts here do not work as collegiately with police experts across the EU.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Finally, Mr Mayor, the Archbishop of Westminster, last year described modern slavery in the capital as the dark underbelly of London's society and I am glad that there is an awareness now developing very rapidly about this serious issue, not just in London but across the country. The cooperative part in particular has done a lot of work and produced a charter on modern slavery. A number of councils in London and around the country, indeed some Conservative councils as well, have adopted the charter. In my constituency all four of my councils - City of London [Corporation], Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Barking and Dagenham - have adopted the charter.

Would you encourage other London authorities that have not adopted the charter as yet to do so?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Mr Chairman, why do I not agree to get the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to write to all councillors and maybe London Councils as well to bring this to their attention. Because actually one of the things you are talking about is county lines and county lines is sometimes modern slavery. It is child grooming and child exploitation where young children from London are being exploited so it affects every part of our city. If that is agreeable to the Chairman, I will make sure the Deputy Mayor writes to all the councillors to bring this to their attention.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Mr Mayor, I just want to pick up on county lines. As you will know in April 2018 the MPS did a very good piece of work and gang leaders from London were prosecuted and we got convictions using modern day slavery laws. Is there anything else that you think that you can do to encourage them to see this as the new norm?

Just because I have time could I quickly add another question on to that? As we know county lines from London is a very, very big deal. 39% of all county lines crimes nationally are coming out of London. I wonder what else your office can do to encourage the MPS to pursue this line? For instance, has it looked at recording addresses, so when an offence is recorded in one of the surrounding counties and a London address



is involved, is the MPS collecting that data to understand how the county lines are spreading across the country?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** One of the things, Mr Chairman, that we are able to work with the London Crime Prevention Fund to do is to make sure some of the monies from the London Crime Prevention Fund was used on county lines, which is really important bearing in mind some of the challenges there are in our city and across our country.

Also the good news is that the MPS is the lead when it comes to the national work in relation to county lines. It is not simply London exporting some children who are being exploited to other parts of the country. Liverpool, Manchester and other great cities have a similar problem. When you go to rural parts of our country they have seen some of the consequences of county lines. These are children aged from 9, 10, 11, 12 going up to adulthood. There are things we are doing work in together. The National Crime Agency is doing some work in relation to this and the Serious Violent Crime Task Force, chaired by the Home Secretary, has also looked in to this issue of county lines. It is an issue that affects everybody. No part of the country is not affected by this.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. Thank you very much.

## **2018/2864 - Rape/Sexual assault survivors' data requests**

[Joanne McCartney AM](#)

*How is the Metropolitan Police Service ensuring that its requests for personal information and data from survivors of rape and serious sexual assault are proportionate during an investigation?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In the Police and Crime Plan and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy we committed to ensuring that survivors of rape and sexual violence are supported to come forward and report to the police. While the number of rape and sexual offences reported to the police force has increased to 54,000 in the past year we know that many of these offences still go unreported. For survivors to report these crimes they must be confident that the police and prosecutors will follow disclosure guidance diligently and will only access information that is reasonable and proportionate to their enquiries.

Over the last year the Victims' Commissioner, Claire Waxman, and I have constantly highlighted our concerns regarding disclosure and the impact it is having on survivors. You will have seen just this week Claire Waxman has written to the Information Commissioner's Office warning that the mass gathering of data from possible rape victims risks preventing them coming forward. The MPS and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have produced a joint London Disclosure Improvement Plan. The MPS is required to work to national disclosure guidelines and the London Plan and must follow reasonable lines of enquiry. Our concern is whether these lines of enquiry are reasonable and proportionate in all cases.

In all rape and sexual offence cases digital devices and communication between the two parties is examined. The MPS has been working with the CPS on developing a letter for individuals who have reported a rape or sexual offence so they understand why their phones will be examined and what to expect. Survivors and the services that work with them have been told by MPS colleagues that the CPS will not be able to make decisions about whether to charge a suspect until any digital materials have been captured and disclosed.

As you know the Attorney General (AG) is currently undertaking a review in to disclosure which will focus on practice and guidance. The Victims' Commissioner has called on the AG to move swiftly and update guidance and operating procedures on the handling of digital media and third party materials.

Victims and survivors of rape and sexual violence must remain a central focus. We will continue to challenge the disclosure process until we are satisfied that victims' rights are being safeguarded whilst ensuring a defendant's right to fair trial.

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, and I am very glad that yourself and your Victims' Commissioner are taking this extremely seriously and taking it up with Government. I was appalled to hear that survivors are being told that their cases will be dropped unless they give access to details of their lives that often go well beyond the parameters of a reasonable investigation. There is a real danger that that will prevent victims and survivors from coming forward. Are you concerned about that, too?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am concerned. It goes back to the issue about blaming the victim, holding the victim responsible, for the behaviour of the defendant. We have to be a bit careful about this. I remember in the previous decades some of the practices that took place in our criminal courts when the victims were within. Helena Kennedy [Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws] has updated her book *Eve was Shamed* and that gives some examples of what has been happening in the criminal justice system in England and Wales over some time. My worry is this will deter victims coming forward.

Assembly Member Desai asked the question previously about the impacts on those without decent immigration status but even those who are UK citizens who are the victims of rape and sexual offences may be deterred from coming forward if there was this sort of disclosure taking place.

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you. Obviously, it is a fundamental right that any material that is found during an investigation that either undermines the prosecution or assists the defence is disclosed. But there is a danger with unfettered access that victims are prevented from proceeding with cases. Assistant Commissioner Hewitt has called for a new system of disclosure, a new national system. I understand that different police forces have different disclosure requirements. The MPS is one of the most intrusive. Would you support the calls for a national system of disclosure?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for the way you asked your question which is to remind us that we have got an obligation to the defendant to make sure that he or she receives a fair trial and disclosure has a proper purpose. I think what is important is for the Attorney General to swiftly update the guidance and operating procedures on the handling of digital media and third party materials. It is really important we get the practice right and then it is applied uniformly across the country. You will be aware of the adverse publicity caused recently by a couple of trials where there have been concerns around lack of disclosure to the defendant and led to the trial collapsing. No good for anybody by the way. So it is really important we get this right and the sooner this happens the better.

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you. Would it be possible to let us have a copy of your Victims' Commissioner's letter?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Happy to do so, Mr Chairman.

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much. The next question is withdrawn and we go to the final question which is from Assembly Member Copley and relates to the Garden Bridge.

## **2018/2753 - Garden Bridge**

[Tom Copley AM](#)

*Are you confident that Transport for London will not pay any further sums to the Garden Bridge Trust?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I have always said that I will not commit more of London's taxpayers' money to the Garden Bridge and I have kept that promise, not least by refusing to sign up to the GLA covering the long term maintenance and operation of the bridge.

The Garden Bridge Trust is still winding up its affairs following its decision to end the project. In 2016 the Government, through the DfT, agreed to underwrite up to £9 million of the Trust's potential cancellation costs and the Trust is in discussion with TfL about a request for payment under that agreement. TfL will review that request in the role as a single conduit for public sector funding for the project but this was a Government decision and any payment would come from their contribution to the project. However, I have been clear that I expect to see full transparency from the Trust before any final payment should be made to them against the DfT's underwriting of cancellation costs and I understand the Trust has agreed to provide such a breakdown.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you for that answer, Mr Mayor. I think Londoners will be shocked that there is still the potential for a further payment to be made to the Garden Bridge Trust because of the arrangements that were signed up to previously.

This is something I have written to you and to Mike Brown, TfL Commissioner, about. I am wondering, in light of the fact that, as you will have seen, an eminent QC has given an opinion which says, "It is likely that the Trustees breached their duties, in particular in relation to the conclusion of the construction contract with Bouygues", has TfL taken any legal advice about whether this final payment can be withheld?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am aware of you sending the QC's advice to TfL. My understanding is TfL has taken no external advice - it has of course got in-house counsel - in relation to that but I know they are considering the advice you have sent to them. I think there was an issue with some redactions which I will speak to you directly about. If it is the case that, as a consequence of the advice you have sent to TfL, there are other avenues we are exploring I am sure it will do so.

To remind colleagues, we are talking about potentially £9 million that the Government has agreed to pay to the Trust. There is a value for money argument in relation to the money that is still there to be spent with the Trust from the Government. Aside from the other point you make about the £37 million already spent.

**Tom Copley AM:** Do you know what the timeframe is for TfL making this determination?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I think you sent it the advice recently. It is looking at your advice. There is a separate issue about the detailed breakdown which TfL has asked for. By the way, TfL did not need to do that. The Government's £9 million was not on condition of TfL doing the due diligence. It is really important though that it did do the due diligence. I think it is going through the detailed breakdown from the Trust. I am not sure of exact dates but I am happy to get the Commissioner to write to you about that.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you. Yes, that would be good. You have highlighted that this is Department for Transport money. We on the London Assembly have conducted some very in-depth investigations in to this. In light of the fact that this tranche of money is DfT money and we need to be looking at the role of the DfT and the Government in this, you said previously that you would support a parliamentary investigation. Would you write to Meg Hillier [MP], Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, asking her to look in to whether they should do an investigation in to this?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You will be aware that the person that we asked to undertake our review was a former Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Margaret Hodge. That was her qualification. I know some do not like her doing the review but she is a Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, a longstanding Chair, and she is a previous Chair. I have got no intention of writing to Meg Hillier although I am sure she is aware, as a London MP, of some of the concerns you have expressed. If you were to write to her and copy me in I am happy to look in to whether me writing as well would add more weight to this. I think, as a London MP, but also other London MPs, will have seen the expenditure on this project. There are concerns about not value for money. Concerns in relation to procurement of the processes that Parliament would think are worthy of looking in to. I support that.

**Tom Copley AM:** I probably will write to her but it will be good to have your support in this because I think that a Select Committee could add some serious weight to an investigation in to this.

I also want to know, in light of the fact of this QC's opinion that the Garden Bridge Trustees may have breached their duties, I think the role of the Charity Commission as regulator comes in to play. Have you had any contact with the Charity Commission at all about this and their oversight of the Garden Bridge Trust?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. My understanding from TfL is that the Charity Commission has been in discussions with the Garden Bridge Trust about the winding up of the charity and the filing of their accounts. My understanding also is that the Commission has now received an initial set of accounts from the Trust so I think we can rest assured the Charity Commission knows all about the Garden Bridge Trust so if there are any concerns the Charity Commission has I have got no doubt it will be looking in to the Garden Bridge Trust.

**Tom Copley AM:** I am just concerned because it seems to me like they dropped the ball in regard to the Garden Bridge Trust. I am a trustee of two charities and I think the way that the Garden Bridge Trust has carried on, particularly as I am sure you know from their minutes, some of the things that were revealed in there I think were absolutely extraordinary and do very much call in to question the Trustees but also the lax oversight by the Charity Commission.

Finally, you mentioned in your initial response the question of where the money has gone and this line by line account which has been promised by Mervyn Davies, the Chair of the Trust. Do you have any indication of when that line by line account is going to be produced and given to you?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. My understanding is that TfL has been quite clear to the Trust that before any final payment is made it wants to see a detailed breakdown of how the money was spent. You will be aware there has already been some publication of the breakdown in relation to some of the other stuff the Trust has done. My understanding is that the Trust has agreed, for reasons you will appreciate, to provide such a breakdown. So let us wait and see what that breakdown says.

**Tom Copley AM:** OK. But we do not know when that --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It would need to be before any further payments are made to the Trust  
so --

**Tom Copley AM:** Before they make any further payments.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Correct.

**Tom Copley AM:** OK. Thank you very much.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thanks.