

EU Exit Working Group – Thursday, 25 October 2018**Transcript of Item 4 – Panel 1 – Question and Answer Session with the Mayor of London on the possible effects of a "no-deal" Brexit on London**

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Welcome, Mr Mayor. Is there anything you want to say to us in opening remarks? We are aware that a press release has been sent out this morning. We have received a late report. We know it is not the fault of the Resilience Forum because there have obviously been some conversations with Government about the wording and the drafting of the document. Is there anything you want to say or should we go straight to questions?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): All I would say is this, Chair. 29 March [2019] is five months away and it is worth your Committee just reminding themselves that at the moment it looks like the two options on the table that the Prime Minister is negotiating with the European Union (EU) are either, I would say, a bad Brexit deal, or no deal whatsoever. There is a serious possibility, more than at any time since Article 50 was served, of a no-deal situation. That is why I would say to you, Chair, I suspect your work over the next five months will accelerate as we get closer to 29 March [2019], and this is why. There is a possibility that at midnight on 29 March [2019] there will be no deal and there will no transitional apparatus in place. That is why it is really important we do what we can to make sure we are as prepared as we can be for that possibility.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): That is good advice. Let us then move to my first question. Immediately after the referendum we moved to what I thought was a very important campaign, *London Is Open*. Of course, as things develop in terms of negotiations with Government we need to think about how we refresh and revive those issues. How do we remain accessible to EU citizens and to businesses in the event of a no-deal Brexit? What is your current thinking around that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I remember vividly what I was doing on the Friday after the referendum. I was in City Hall ringing up chief executives, ringing up businessmen and women, ringing up the Government, the Bank of England, and others, not just to feel their pulse and how they were feeling but also to ask their advice on what we can do to make sure they continue to stay in our country, continue to invest in our country and continue to create the wealth and prosperity that is so important to our city. What was clear to me was that a number of people were feeling quite scared, quite vulnerable and quite anxious about the results of the referendum. What I mean by that is they thought the implications of the vote to leave the EU is that we as a city will stop being openminded, outward-looking and pluralistic.

The *London Is Open* campaign was about addressing those concerns, internally as well as externally. You will be aware, Chair, that one million of our fellow citizens are EU citizens, not British citizens, and across the country it is 3.5 million. Each day we get visitors and businesspeople coming to our city. That reassurance was important. That was what *London Is Open* was all about, giving that reassurance that yes, we may be leaving the EU but we will continue to be open-minded, outward-looking and pluralistic. You will know, Chair, because you have been very complimentary about this, it has been a very successful campaign. How do you measure soft power? It is very difficult to do. What I can tell you is that people feel more reassured than they otherwise would do.

It is impossible to have a sliding scale comparison, but we have to build on that because of the uncertainty caused by the negotiations. Whether you are pro or anti the way the Government is negotiating things, we cannot escape the fact that people are worried. I was speaking last night to some businesspeople who are

worried about the future in relation to whether they should invest. I spoke to a developer last week who was pausing investment. He may still invest in the future but he was not sure what to do. I was speaking to a nurse two weeks ago concerned about whether they will stay, bearing in mind the uncertain immigration status they will have because they have to register with the Home Office and apply for secured status after five years.

We have to carry on and do all we can, Chair. Everyone around this table loves our city and loves the diversity of this city and all of us have a role to play. Through you, Chair, can I just thank the Assembly for the retweets, the quote tweets and the good things you have done in your own way to get across this really important message that London is open.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Following on from that, in some ways you have been a very powerful voice for business in articulating back to Government some of the problems that businesses are facing. You mentioned recently talking to a nurse and the National Health Service (NHS) about some of the problems. Some of these public sector organisations play a crucial part in London's life. They are almost wealth creators in their own right. These are difficult times we face in terms of a potential downturn and lack of confidence for those coming months. It will be difficult whatever happens, bad deal or no deal.

Your powers are limited. Would you, and are you, prepared to use your powers to talk to the NHS and say, "What are you doing about retaining the confidence of the EU nationals that work within your sector?" Can you do that? Are you able to do that? Do you feel comfortable in doing that? Of course in the coming months you are going to be incredibly busy. Is that one of the areas that is going to be your priority?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am seeing, later on today, Simon Stevens [Chief Executive, NHS England]. One of the things I said to London, to Simon Stevens and to the NHS generally when I became Mayor is that my job is to be somebody who champions the NHS but also challenges the NHS. Chair, we all should appreciate that there are some people who, because of their jobs, cannot be advocates for the concerns they have. We have to respect that, particularly those in public service, the Commissioner and others. We know who they are. One of our jobs is to listen to them, understand their concerns and then be their advocates for them, if you like.

What is clear to me are a number of things. First, the NHS. This year we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the NHS and, by the way, the 70th anniversary of the [HMT Empire] Windrush coming to our country. Why is that important? Because it reminds us that the NHS is built on the shoulders of our immigrant community and successive generations, whether it is doctors, nurses, porters or others who work in the NHS. In London, 11% of those who work in the NHS are from the EU and are non-British citizens, 11%. There is an issue about the retention of the staff that they have, but this year we also have a record number of vacancies in the NHS, particularly among nurses, so there is also the challenge of recruitment. You will be aware the Government has changed the requirements for people to come to this country and have made it more difficult in relation to the NHS. You will be aware of issues around the bursary. You will be aware that the Prime Minister [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] sought to give some reassurance in relation to recognising qualifications but did not mention in particular the NHS and those to do with medicine. There are big concerns.

I throw the question back to you, Chair. If you are a nurse, a doctor or an expert in the health sector who is currently in Poland, Estonia or another part of the EU, and you are thinking of leaving your country of origin to improve life for yourself but also to carry on being a practitioner, would you choose a country, a city, with an uncertain future like London and the UK, or would you go to Paris, Berlin or Madrid? We have to realise these are the talented people that the NHS needs to continue to be a fantastic health service.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Thank you for that. Let us go back to business. Essentially your argument, shared by many, is about the period of time immediately after Brexit. Whatever happens, they are going to be challenging times for us. Our economic output will be affected by those issues. If there is that period of lower growth, which is even more likely with no deal, what role does your Brexit Business [Resource] Hub play in supporting business? What is the vision for it? It is recently established. I think it has been well-received by business.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Can I explain to you, Chair, the genesis of that? I regularly meet businesspeople and those who represent businesses, whether it is London First, the Federation of Small Businesses, the London Chamber of Commerce, the Institute of Directors or the Confederation of British Industry, but also have bilaterals all the time with businesses. There was a mood change over summer [2018]. It was quite clear. There was a variety of things going on in national Government. The concern of businesses grew exponentially over the course of the summer [2018].

I wanted to gauge their views in a more scientific way, so we conducted a survey. We have a very good data base, we have very good contacts, and the survey was asking businesses, on a confidential basis, "How are you feeling? How prepared are you? What contact have you had from the Government? How can we help?" There were a variety of other questions. We can send you a blank survey, Chair, if that helps you, in relation to the questions that were asked, and we could probably anonymise some of them if you want to see some responses.

What came back to us is that the bigger businesses were better prepared. They had plans in place. They sort of knew what they were doing. There were still real concerns about the technical notices that had been sent by the Government, the paucity of those and the lack of detail. The smaller businesses were completely struggling. They just did not have the resources or the expertise. They just could not do the stuff that you need them to do to flourish and thrive.

What can we do to help? One of the things that came from this conversation was a Brexit business portal on the London Growth Hub. The idea was it is a one-stop shop so that you as a small business man or woman, or you as someone in big business, could go to this Hub. If you get a chance, please, Chair, I would advise you to go to it. The idea is we give you what information we know and signpost you. I am not pretending we are the oracle in relation to business acumen and knowledge. We will try to signpost you to those who are. The important thing is, Chair, we made sure that business groups were supportive and wanted us to do it. There is no point in us duplicating good work taking place elsewhere. The idea is to amplify the good work taking place - obviously we name-check, amplify and signpost good stuff taking place elsewhere - and basically to try to be a one-stop shop where we can.

We have realised that we can, in the Assembly, create an environment where the businesses of London will flourish better and thrive better than they otherwise would, though we may not create any jobs ourselves. That is really important. Also, Chair, it is really important for businesses to realise, particularly at these times when they feel - again, fairly or unfairly - the Government is not listening to them, that they have at least a voice for them and engaging with them. That is what the Brexit business portal is all about, practical assistance to businesses, large and small. The good news, Chair, is this has been very well received. The feedback we have had is very positive and we will carry on building on it.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): I am in agreement with you. I was doing some research about what is happening in other EU countries in preparation. We may return to this. In the Netherlands they are preparing their businesses in every sector for deal or no-deal and positioning those. In Éire or Ireland they are giving voucher grants to businesses in terms of getting expert advice and running roadshows, which are oversubscribed. You

are right, big businesses will get on top of this, prepare for it and make those judgments. It is the smaller supply chains that we need to help here in London and in the UK if we are going to survive that period immediately after exit.

Has the Government ever spoken to you about what they are going to do to talk to business, or said, "Once we have done a deal we are immediately swinging into action", or, "We want you to do that"?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This is operating on a freelance basis because there is a vacuum there. I think it is important I share with you a couple of lines from the technical notices the Government says are supposed to help businesses. Let me read you one line. One advice paper titled "Structuring your business if there is no Brexit deal" advises companies based in the UK but incorporated under EU corporate law that moving to a country that is still a member state may be better for their business. That is from the Government's technical notice. Another one:

Actions businesses can take now to prepare include the following:

- understand what the likely changes to customs and excise procedures will be to their businesses in light of this technical notice*
- take account of the volume of their trade with the EU and any potential supply chain impacts such as engaging with the other businesses in the supply chain to ensure that the necessary planning is taking place at all levels*

I am really sorry, how does that help you as a small business man or woman in Tooting High Street who does business with the EU, whose supply chain relies on things that come from other parts of the EU, with the possibility now, more than ever before, that at 12.01am on 30 March [2019] we have left the EU with no transitional period?

You made the point about the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland. Last week the French Government published a draft "no-deal" bill. That is why I say this to you, Chair, in the spirit in which it is intended: our role now is more important than it has been, in relation to the business community, at any time since the Greater London Authority (GLA) was formed. I genuinely believe that.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): OK. I am going to move on then. Yesterday's National Audit Office (NAO) report paints a bleak picture of Government's preparations about border controls for a no-deal Brexit. Of course London has a number of ports of entry, from Heathrow [Airport] to King's Cross [St Pancras International] and the Port of London. What do you think are the key issues the Resilience Forum in London should be working on around ports of entry in particular?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): [London] City Airport as well, Chair, which you know very well.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): [London] City Airport, yes, of course.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It will be for the London Resilience team to speak to you about this later on. There are a number of issues of concern here. It is not simply the movement of people that may be an issue. When I was away for a weekend this summer - you will enjoy this, Chair - I decided to queue at Malaga Airport in the queue that was not the EU queue, to see the difference. My wife was in the EU queue. The number of people who went past in Malaga Airport while I waited -- and they were laughing because they recognised me and I explained I was doing a test. That is just an example of what will happen, potentially, in a no-deal scenario, at our ports. Obviously we are in charge of our borders. At the moment the border checks when you come in from the EU take place very, very swiftly. There are two queues and you just go through. If

you are on the Eurostar - you have travelled Eurostar; you know what it is like - or at [London] City Airport, or Heathrow Airport, it is the same.

There is a possibility of no deal and no transitional period. My understanding is that there has not been proper preparation for the possibility of us being in a position where there is no transitional period either. That leads to, Chair, the possibility of all these ports having to take on more staff. They have to be trained. You know the security concerns. You will know, Chair, from the other work that you have done, that our police rely on intelligence-sharing in relation to passenger lists. We will come on later to talk about passenger lists, but one of those things is that known dangers are identified when we work together and those checks take place.

There is a real concern about people; there is a separate concern about goods. One of the things I tried to get across at Mayor's Question Time (MQT), probably unsuccessfully because of the way MQT works, is that I am not sure we realise that 30% of the food we eat comes from the EU and an additional 11% comes from countries that have a deal with the EU. Therefore, 41% of the food we import is linked to our membership of the EU to some extent. We pay no tariffs on that.

Just pause and think about fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and fresh produce if there are delays in relation to them coming into our country. Put aside the consequences of delays in exporting and fruit-picking. Park that for a second. Park those two things. We saw reports of [The Rt Hon] Chris Grayling [MP, Secretary of State for Transport] hiring ships to bring food across. Pause there a second. Just think about the consequences of the delay. Think about the consequences, if you are a restaurateur, if you own a supermarket, if you have a small shop on a high street or if you are in food manufacturing, of those situations when it comes to ports. The ports are important because it is the speed of transition through the ports which is what worries us. Even park - forgive the pun - the M26 and M30 becoming car parks rather than motorways.

You are right, we have a number of ports that affect our city - the Port of London, Heathrow [Airport], St Pancras [International], [London] City Airport - and we have to give serious consideration to that. The London Resilience team have identified some of the challenges and I am writing to the Government today letting them know what concerns they have. One of the biggest concerns they have is lack of information. The department that holds the ring for this is the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). They are key in relation to preparation and resilience. I have no evidence I can share with you about any confidence that the Government has a grip on this.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Thank you for that. Let us move on to aspects around food security.

Caroline Russell AM: You have already started picking up on that with the comments you just made. I want to dig into this a little bit more, making sure that we as a city have adequate food supplies but also from the perspective of the businesses, the big supermarkets but also the smaller traders who supply food for Londoners. We have had these worrying statements from the Secretary of State [for Exiting the EU, The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP] that the Government has practical measures to mitigate risks of disruption to supply, but then going on to say that there are no plans to deploy the Army, which expresses the extent of radical thinking that has been going on.

In particular we have heard the British Retail Consortium saying that stockpiling of food is not a practical response, and also statements that our food supply chains are very fragile. The Food and Drink Federation has said that the technical notices published so far confirming anticipated burdens on importers and exporters would, and I quote, "frighten many small and medium enterprise food businesses". We are talking about a complicated, difficult situation. Can you set out for us what actions you have taken to mitigate the impact of a no-deal Brexit on the food supply chain in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. Let me just be clear: what we are not doing is hiring warehouses to store food. We are not doing that and I have no intention of doing that. What we are doing is making sure that the Government is aware of our concerns. We are working with others who have expertise to do this. The London Markets Board, which I set up, is going to be working with markets across London to make sure they are as prepared as they can be. Many of them, by the way, Caroline [Russell AM], do not have the facilities or the refrigeration equipment to store food. Many of us do not have larders in our own home where we can store food for long periods of time.

We are undertaking research to measure the food insecurity in individual households in London. You will be aware from the work you have done as a Councillor that poorer Londoners are more disadvantaged than wealthy Londoners, for obvious reasons. We will be using the findings of the research, in conjunction with our ongoing Food Programme, to focus particularly on low-income households. That is what we are particularly worried about. This will complement the work, as I said, of the London Markets Board, which is doing work to make sure that markets can access fresh, affordable, healthy and culturally appropriate food. In some of the markets that is really important for them. What we have asked the London Resilience Forum to do is to see if there are particular concerns for specific communities that are reliant on specific sources of food in the supply chain. They will be able to speak more about that in a while.

There is also one piece of good news, which is that the Government is clearly concerned about this as well and has recently appointed a new Minister, David Rutley [MP], as a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Minister with responsibility for food supplies in the event of no-deal. We now have a person who we can contact in relation to our particular concerns in London. It is not simply MHCLG. There is a human being, a Minister, a politician, who we can liaise with about this.

Caroline Russell AM: Do you think that it is possible for you to be able to issue any statements with regard to the security of London's food supply chain, both to reassure people or to encourage people? From what you were saying about doing this research into low-income households, are you suggesting that Londoners should possibly be stockpiling food for a no-deal scenario? What is your message to Londoners on this?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Look, it is a really good question, Caroline [Russell AM], and the reason why I am delaying answering that is because there is a balance to be struck between causing alarm and scaring people, and being prudent and preparing.

Caroline Russell AM: Of course.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is getting that balance right. I am not sure we are in a position to answer that accurately until I have the research. Chair, we will make sure that research is available to you as the Committee. I would be keen to hear your recommendations based on that research.

Caroline Russell AM: What is your timescale on that research?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Weeks rather than months. This side of Christmas [2018]. We need to be in time for the advice to be given and people to research. My suspicion is that supermarkets may be well placed. It is the shops on the high street that I worry about in relation to their ability to store. Some of this stuff, as you know, has to be refrigerated.

Can I tell you the other concern I have, Caroline [Russell AM]? The price of food. In answering a question from the Chair, I mentioned the amount of food that comes from the EU and countries with a deal with the EU.

If it is the case that we leave without any deal with the EU and we go to World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms, that could mean an increase in food prices of more than 20%. These are WTO terms based on the food we get from the EU and countries that have a deal with the EU. The additional concern I have, Caroline [Russell AM], in relation to your very good question about the advice we give Londoners, which is a question that also concerns me, is the cost of food going up after 29 March [2019].

What we do not want to do is make that go up in advance of 29 March [2019] if it is the case we do a deal. There is a fine balance to be struck between alarming or scare-mongering, and people being properly prepared. What I will do is, with the Chair's permission, make sure we have that research available to you as well. I would hope to come up with advice that we can all agree on. I think we should give out one piece of advice rather than me saying one thing and the Government saying something else. That does not work for anybody.

Caroline Russell AM: Certainly, Londoners need to have time to prepare if they need to prepare.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely, and also the faith communities. You will be aware of the brilliant network of support we have across London of citizens who do good things. We need to make sure we can state the advice to them as well because they will be an integral part if - and this is a big 'if' - it is the case that we have no deal with the EU and no transitional period.

Caroline Russell AM: Yes. Thank you very much.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Shall we move on then to medicine supply and availability?

Keith Prince AM: Just before I start, can I commend you, Mr Mayor, on getting the Crossrail Board to publish their minutes? You announced that yesterday. That is important too. Crossrail is important to London's economy.

Caroline Russell AM: Yes, it is.

Keith Prince AM: Credit where it is due.

I understand that you have asked the Resilience Forum to establish the impact of a no-deal Brexit on critical areas such as medicines, access to medicines, and energy. What exactly is the Forum doing to prepare for a no-deal scenario in these situations?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): John [Barradell OBE, Deputy Chair, London Resilience Forum] will be able to explain, who is on the Forum, but a key part of the Forum is the NHS, which is really important. They can give advice. One of the issues that, again, John [Barradell OBE] will be able to explain more when he speaks to you, is that with some of the advice - for good reason because they are a national body - there is an issue about the information they could share. One of the things that we will be making clear to Government. We need a bit more sharing of information.

The base position is this. The NHS are not yet making plans to stockpile medicines after 29 March [2019]. The drug companies are reported to be doing that, though, in advance of the possibility of this happening. My understanding is the drug companies may be stockpiling six weeks' worth of medicines after 29 March [2019]. Again, my understanding is that 50% of the medicines we use in this country come from the EU. It is a huge source of concern.

As far as the preparation that we in City Hall can do, it is important that we realise our role is strategy. Our role is to make sure that we give the advice to the Government and we work with the NHS. We will carry on being the strategic body and giving the advice that is required. One of the things we can do though, Assembly Member Prince, is make sure that we, in an environment that is private, hear from the NHS what their concerns are, and if they cannot make those points to Government we make those points to the Government and advocate on behalf of the NHS. That is just on medicines. We can come on to staff and stuff later if you want to.

Keith Prince AM: Sure. That is an interesting point because it does appear that the NHS are getting information that we are not privileged to. Is there no way that you could perhaps approach --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think it is more that the NHS has been given guidance from the Government. The NHS has to be very careful about the information they share with the public. The NHS will have a channel to get things back to the Government. The Secretary of State for Health [The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP] this week gave evidence to the [House of Commons] Select Committee [on Health and Social Care]. He looked pretty confident, which surprised me, in relation to the evidence he gave, and it is for others to look at the evidence he gave to the Select Committee. His evidence was in stark contrast with the evidence given to the same Select Committee by the drug companies, incidentally, and so I am a bit concerned about the Government's understanding the concerns of the NHS. What I can do and I will do is, with their permission, make sure we make public whatever concerns they have and also lobby for the changes they need. But at the moment, the NHS position is that they are not stockpiling medicines after 29 March [2019].

You will be aware, Keith [Prince AM], that it is not an insignificant amount of medicines that need to be kept at a certain temperature, which leads to all sorts of issues. One of the things explored by the [House of Commons] Health [and Social Care] Select Committee this week was whether the NHS has the refrigeration facilities to store these medicines over a period of time. My understanding, again, is that it could take up to a year to get the refrigeration capacity up to speed. We do not have a year. This is why I said to you that I was not reassured, if I am being frank, that the Secretary of State [for Health, The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP] understood and had a grip of this issue. I was quite concerned by what the drug companies were saying about the consequences of no deal.

Keith Prince AM: There is a shelf life aspect with some products as well.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Exactly.

Keith Prince AM: The point I was trying to get to is: could you endeavour to open a line of communication between yourself and whichever Minister it may be on a confidential basis so that you can get that information? We know, or we are fairly confident that we know, that the NHS is being given different information, as you have already indicated, to what we are getting. Clearly, there is going to have to be a level of trust there but even I believe that you should know this top-line information, even if you are not able to share it.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am happy for my office to relay to you, Chair, the problems we have had with getting data from the Government. It has been a challenge. You are right, you would expect the elected Mayor of London to have this information, including in relation to the work of the Resilience Forum. Some of the data and information they were willing to share with the Chair [of the Resilience Forum], Fiona Twycross [AM], but were very reluctant for that to be passed on. There is this issue about the sharing of information. One of the points I will make in my letter to the Government when I send them the report is the

issue of sharing data. I am always happy to give undertakings to Government about confidentiality. Often one of the issues about being a Privy Counsellor is that you can give those assurances. There is an agreement. I am as concerned as you are, Keith [Prince AM]. I am happy, Chair, for my office to share with you some of the challenges Fiona [Twycross AM] has had, so that you understand. Any assistance the Assembly can give would be appreciated.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you. The only other thing then, really, is: what are you planning to share with the public around this? Can you at this moment, for instance, give the public an assurance that you are reasonably confident there will not be a problem with the medical supplies because of the information you have had from the medical companies and from the NHS?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): At this stage I am not in a position to answer the question, if there is a no-deal scenario without any transitional period, of how prepared we - I say "we" - the NHS is going forward. There are three areas of concern I have.

The first is in relation to staff. If you are a doctor working in London, or a nurse or a medic, and you are told there is no deal and there are uncertainties around [The Rt Hon] Theresa May's [MP, Prime Minister] position on the immigration status of EU citizens, what confidence can I have that you are not going to return to your country of origin or go to another country in the EU because of your concerns? Staffing is a big issue for me. I cannot answer that question about reassuring Londoners.

The second issue is medicine, in relation to whether we have enough medicine going forward if there is a no-deal scenario and no transition period, bearing in mind the concerns I have expressed about it. You mentioned shelf life and refrigeration.

The third issue that worries me is in relation to new medicines coming onstream. We are a member of the EU and until recently the European Medicines Agency had a bright future in London. It is now leaving to go to Amsterdam. The market in the EU is 500 million. If you are a pharmaceutical company, you want approval as soon as possible for your medicines - cancer medicines, antivirals, all the rest of it - because the market is huge. If you are a small market, you are not a priority. In Australia, for example, there is a 15-month lag between a medicine being given approval in our country, in the EU, and it then going to Australia, for obvious reasons. The third part of my concern is what happens in the future in relation to medical advances.

I simply cannot give the assurances that you would like me to give. That is why it is really important, again, that over the next few weeks and months we get these answers from the Government. It is important that everyone is reassured. This is not scare-mongering, by the way. We would be criticised, Keith [Prince AM], if we were not asking these questions about preparedness in advance of 29 March [2019].

Keith Prince AM: Yes. You can at least assure Londoners that you are doing all that you can?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely, and I will carry on doing so. Any assistance the Chair can give - which is why I am keen to share with the Chair the problems we have had in relation to information from central Government - would really help me.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I just want to pick up in this area the threat to some cancer treatments because we are withdrawing from the European Atomic Energy Community, which facilitates the secure and safe supply of medical radioisotopes, which cannot be stockpiled because they decay quickly. It could really have an impact on cancer patients in London. I am wondering what specific representations you have been putting to the Government about this very specific area of medicine and whether perhaps you agree with the Chief

Executive of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry [Mike Thompson]. He has said that we need some sort of fast track lanes at ports for certain medicines. I am wondering whether that is the sort of proposal you are putting forward to the Government.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): It is just worth reminding ourselves, in case we focus just on the no-deal scenario, that there are a number of other scenarios. One scenario could be - people call this the "blindfold Brexit" - that we agree a deal with the EU without working out the details. That means we get a transitional period where all this stuff is kicked down the road.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is kind of "fingers crossed".

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. The reason I mention that is because I do not want to alarm people, those who suffer from cancer or those with other illnesses who are worried that their medicines may not be available after 29 March [2019]. We have to reassure those people that there are a number of scenarios in front of us going forward.

We are working with the NHS in relation to making sure they can make these points to the Department for Health [and Social Care], but also make these points to MHCLG as well. Just to reassure you, it is not simply me making the points to Government. The NHS is making these points to the Department for Health [and Social Care] and making them to Government as well. There will be a number of people making these points. Of course separately the practitioners, through the British Medical Association and other organisations, are also making these points to Government. Hopefully the Government realises that. The EU do not want to punish us. They do not want to punish cancer sufferers. I can assure you the EU would not allow a situation where anyone's health deteriorated because a drug that was available before 29 March [2019], because of issues around trade, is not available in the future. Fingers crossed those people who you are talking about will not suffer detrimentally, but it is a possibility.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is an issue that needs to be --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely right. These are real humans.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: When you think of drugs you think of stockpiling pills and whatever. This is something that cannot be stockpiled.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Let us go back to the status of EU nationals.

Caroline Russell AM: Just thinking about EU nationals who are living here in London, it has been a very unsettling period since the referendum back in 2016 but I think as more information comes out about the risks of a potential no-deal Brexit people are particularly concerned. With freedom of movement comes rights to social security, to healthcare and to education, and also obviously people are wondering whether they will or will not qualify for settled status, whether their family members will be able to be here with them in London, and whether family members who are not here at the moment will be able to join them in London. For EU citizens living in London at the moment there is concern and anxiety about all of this. Is there anything you are planning to do to support EU nationals in London as they go through the process of applying for settled status?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for the question. There are two things straight away I can say we are doing, as an example. The Chair asked me about the support given to businesses and the business Brexit portal. A number of months ago, we set up an EU portal for the citizens you are talking about, so that you as an EU citizen could go to the website and find information. The problem is that the Government has no certainty about the processes. One of the things I have been saying for the last two and a half years is that there has to be a cast iron guarantee to EU citizens with a clear direction of how they go from being EU citizens to getting secured status and becoming a British citizen if they want it. That has not been forthcoming, so we have some information on the EU portal but it is not satisfactory because the Government has not published the information. I can signpost you to other places, but once we have more information we will have it on the portal. We have what we know so far.

Separately, the work that Matthew Ryder [Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement] has been doing integration is providing a route for citizenship for those in London, not just EU but also non-EU. We have the Windrush-type situation as well as the EU. What we will be doing once we know more about the process is to provide assistance to people. It could be information, it could be signposting. We also have staff doing this work to assist people to get their secured status. The good news is there are some charities and community groups doing some of this work and, as I mentioned at MQT, we are employing people to do outreach work as well to make sure we reach people who need this help.

Just to remind you, there are two separate issues. One is the registration requirement placed on these EU citizens. That basically means registering with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) [now UK Visas and Immigration, UK Border Force and Immigration Enforcement]. Separately is, after five years, having secured status.

Let me tell you the concern. You and I both know that [The Rt Hon] Theresa May [MP, Prime Minister] has tried to reassure these EU citizens. Six weeks ago the head of the European Research Group (ERG), who could become the next leader of the Conservative Party, said that according to him - this is Jacob Rees-Mogg [MP] - EU citizens in the future should be treated the same as non-EU citizens. You imagine that you are an Italian living in London for the last two years. You are, on the one hand, being reassured by [The Rt Hon] Theresa May [MP, Prime Minister] that you will have secured status if you stay here five years, but on the other hand you are being told that if Jacob Rees-Mogg [MP] has his way, there is no route to secured status after five years' time. Now, if there is a job in Berlin, a job in Paris or the uncertainty here, what are you going to choose?

Caroline Russell AM: Obviously.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is why it is really important we understand their concerns. That is why, Chair, I began by saying that we have to understand that these are human beings who are affected. That is why it is important we give them the reassurance they need.

Caroline Russell AM: Do you have any sense about the timescale for the Government to be able to give you more information, so that we can do more for these citizens?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No. That is what is so frustrating, Caroline [Russell AM]. What I have been calling for for some time now is: look, I accept the proposition that either everything is agreed or nothing is agreed. I accept that in any negotiation. But you cannot use human beings as bargaining chips. Forget all that and just give a cast iron guarantee now. Say that irrespective of what happens, those EU citizens who are here will be able to stay here. You can work out the cut-off date. It could be 29 March [2019]. That is a discussion to be had. The Government could do that very easily. They could draft a Bill and get it done.

Until the EU deal is done, nothing is agreed. It is important to understand that the proposition, the phrasing, is that everything is agreed or nothing is agreed. Even the speech made by [The Rt Hon] Theresa May [MP, Prime Minister] saying, "Secured status, five years", even that could be taken off the table.

Caroline Russell AM: I do not know what to say. It is --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): These are human beings. These are your neighbours. They are people who work in the GLA. They are people who work in Transport for London. They are police officers. They are Londoners. They contribute to our city. That is not a way to treat people.

Caroline Russell AM: Indeed. It is shocking. You have also been one of the people - and it is great that you have - who has called for a People's Vote on the terms of leaving the EU. At the moment we are having this conversation about the resilience of London and what leaving the EU means, and yet there is absolutely no certainty about what the terms of that deal should be. What do you see as the mechanisms by which a vote on the detail of leaving might be called?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): First, anybody who can predict what can happen should not be believed so take what I say with a pinch of salt, but there is a route in relation to getting some certainty around what we have now. Because of the court case brought by Gina Miller [R (Miller and Dos Santos) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (2016)] and because of good opposition in Parliament, we now know that there is going to be a vote on the deal that our Government does with the EU. We have been told it should be a meaningful vote, which must therefore allow for the possibility of an amendment to the motion put down by the Government. The idea of there being no amendment is not a meaningful vote.

So, the route is that the Government completes the negotiations with the EU, and they will either have, in my view, a bad Brexit deal or there will be no deal whatsoever. They put that to Parliament. Parliament has the ability to amend that. I suspect Parliament will reject the deal the Government does. Why? Because [The Rt Hon] Theresa May [MP, Prime Minister] cannot get agreement from her Cabinet or her party, let alone Parliament. You will be aware of the six tests the Labour Party, Her Majesty's Official Opposition, have set out. You will be aware of the concerns of the Green Party, the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National Party, and part of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) for a second. I predict that Parliament will reject the deal the Government does.

The Labour Party will then move an amendment, I suspect, for a General Election, because if you are a Labour politician and you are Her Majesty's Official Opposition you want this shower out and you want to form a Government. I suspect the move for the General Election that the Labour Party wants will not succeed in a vote in the House of Commons because of the numbers required. You will be aware of the [Fixed-term] Parliaments Act in relation to the votes that are required.

Caroline Russell AM: Yes.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Then I am hoping there will be an amendment put down for the British public to have a say, for the first time, on the outcome of the negotiations, do they accept the deal done by the Prime Minister [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] or not, with the option of staying in the EU. If that amendment is passed, that allows the British public to have a say on the outcome of the negotiations with the option of staying in the EU.

Why is that important? Because rather than promises being made which are unrealistic, untruths, lies or deceptions, such as, "Once we leave the EU it will be possible to have access to the single market", said by

[The Rt Hon] Boris Johnson [MP, former Foreign Secretary, former Mayor of London] in 2016, untrue, “Doing a deal with the EU will be the easiest trade deal in history” said by [The Rt Hon] Liam Fox [MP, Secretary of State for International Trade] in summer 2016, or, “You can do a trade deal with the European Union during the afternoon over a cup of tea and a scone”, said by the leader of the UK Independence Party in 2016 -- in those circumstances you can understand why people wanted to leave the EU.

Now we know what the deal is, whatever the Prime Minister [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] secures. The British public can say, “We accept this. We understand there will be challenges. We understand for the short term there may be challenges, but it is a price worth paying”, or they will decide to stay in the EU. That is still an option the British public should have. I cannot think of anything more democratic or more British than trusting the British people.

Caroline Russell AM: Thank you.

Keith Prince AM: Mr Mayor, quite rightly, you referred to summer 2016 and what people said in 2016. You now seem to be joining the voices calling for a second referendum, but in 2016 in the summer, July, you claimed that the establishment needed to respect the result and that a second referendum would lead to more cynicism amongst voters. Why have you changed your view since summer 2016?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I thought had I explained this, but I will explain again. We were told two years ago that it was impossible to do a good deal with the EU. In the last two years, I probably have spent more time with Government Ministers than [The Rt Hon] Nicola Sturgeon [MSP, First Minister of Scotland] and [The Rt Hon] Carwyn Jones [AM, First Minister of Wales] put together. I met [The Rt Hon] David Davis [MP, former Secretary of State for Exiting the EU] eight times. On a number of occasions, I took experts with me to try to get a good deal because it is important that we get a good deal with the EU. I am being pragmatic: single market access, membership of the Customs Union, a cast-iron guarantee for EU citizens, a transitional period. I have even gone to Brussels to meet with the EU Presidents, EU Commissioners and EU politicians to persuade them why it is in their interests to have a good deal with us. I have said to both them and to our Government --

Keith Prince AM: You failed to get a good deal as well, then?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have said to our Government and to the EU that an extreme hard Brexit is bad for everyone: bad for us and bad for Europe. The jobs will go to not Paris, Brussels and Berlin. I have said to our friends in Brussels that they will go to Singapore, Hong Kong and New York.

It was clear, though, over the course of this summer [2018] that the option of a good deal is gone. There are only two things left on the table now. One is a bad Brexit deal and one is no deal. Why? Because [The Rt Hon] Theresa May [MP, Prime Minister] is held hostage by her party. Why? Because she cannot get agreement around her Cabinet let alone her party. Why? Because the ERG is making threats to her in relation to her ability to carry on being leader. Why? Because she served the Article 50 too soon without realising what she wanted. Why? Because she called a General Election when she did not need to, which meant that the DUP had more powers than it deserved to have. Why? Because she has no answer to the backstop issue in relation to Northern Ireland. Why? Because her solution in relation to the issues with the border in Northern Ireland - some sort of technological solution - does not work.

Also, she is at risk of jeopardising the Good Friday Agreement. The Good Friday Agreement was an amazing piece of work after decades of the Troubles. More than 3,000 people died during the Troubles. I grew up in London in the 1970s and 1980s and was well aware of the consequences of the disturbances there were.

There was a sophisticated solution to the border issue whereby there was no border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland but at the same time Northern Ireland was part of the UK and was part of Great Britain as well. All that is being risked because of the dogma of [The Rt Hon] Theresa May [MP, Prime Minister] and her party.

Keith Prince AM: I do not want to go into the detail of that particular aspect because I am not sure that you can just blame the Government regarding the dogma on that --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me tell you why I can. One way where there is no issue with the border is for us to continue to be members of the single market. If we stay in the single market, albeit outside the EU, and if we stay in the Customs Union, there is no border issue.

One of the things that I have been saying is that it is possible to have a deal with the EU, even if we have left the EU, that solves the border issue but also means we are not as badly off as we are with an extremely bad Brexit: by us having membership of the single market and Customs Union. Why can that not happen? Because your party is split, mate.

Keith Prince AM: I am not sure that your party is singing from the same hymn sheet.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am really happy to compare which of our parties is more divided all day long.

Keith Prince AM: It depends who you talk to in your particular party, including your leader, as to their views on whether we should leave or not. You did write, again in 2016, "It is our turn to make one of those big once-in-a-lifetime decisions that will determine our future, a decision we will not be able to reverse". That was what you thought, but you seem to have changed your mind on that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No, what I am saying is that the British public should have a say on the outcome of the negotiations. I am not saying that we should have a rerun or a best of three or a best of five. I am saying that now that we know the terms of the deal the Prime Minister has done - which is not a good Brexit deal, by the way; it is a bad Brexit deal or it is no deal whatsoever - the British public should have the option of deciding whether they accept or reject that but also staying in the EU.

It is clear over the last two years that the British public was sold lies, untruths, mistruths and deceptions. Those have been uncovered and the will of the British people is changing. Even if you park that, what are you so scared of in relation to the British public having a say on the deal that your Prime Minister [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] has negotiated? If it is such a good deal, let them have a say.

Keith Prince AM: Personally, I am not scared of the public having a say on the deal, but --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Are you joining the campaign for a People's Vote? You heard it here first. There is a journalist in the room. Keith Prince has changed his mind and now backs a People's Vote.

Keith Prince AM: I have not changed my mind.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: You have always supported it? Wonderful.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): OK. You are scared of the British public?

Keith Prince AM: You have not let me finish what I was about to say, which is that I do not particularly have a problem with asking people about their views on the deal, but I certainly would not want a second referendum on whether or not we stay or leave the EU. We have made that decision. That decision has been made.

However, I do accept that there is a lot of work to be done in relation to the deal and that at the moment what I have seen is not great.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a criticism of your Prime Minister [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] rather than me, with respect, but --

Keith Prince AM: I was not criticising you at that point in time.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Look, we are in danger of having a political debate and I do not want to waste the Committee's time.

Peter Whittle AM: Mr Mayor, not that you are, but we should not confuse the issue of Brexit and what people are voting on with the absolutely appalling display of incompetence and weakness that we have had from your party. They are two different things. They should not be conflated. They should not be made the reason for a vote, as it were.

I would say to you that when you took over as Mayor, you said, "I want to be a Mayor for all Londoners", and that includes the 40% of people who voted to leave. I wonder what you think they would feel about what you are saying now, given the fact that there is not - and trust me, I have searched high and low - a bit of evidence that any Brexiteer voters want a second referendum. There is not a bit. It is coming purely from 'remain' voters. That is fine. If they want to call for that, that is fine, including you. The fact is, to somehow say that this is something that people are desperate for because they did not understand, it seems to me that it was Brexiteers perhaps who understood very clearly what it meant and the remainers who somehow did not understand what it was all about. 40% of Londoners voted to leave. You have to think of those, Mr Mayor, being Mayor of all London.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am going to try to unpack some of the points made by the Assembly Member. Firstly, look, I accept - and I have said this on a number of occasions and it has been used against me just this morning - the results of the referendum. The British public, whether I like it or not, voted to leave the EU. You are right to distinguish that decision from the negotiation the Government has conducted over the last two or so years. It is clear now that the only deal this Government is either able or willing to do is a bad Brexit deal or no deal whatsoever. That is a million miles away from what was promised two or so years ago. Even you would have to accept that there cannot have been many people who voted to leave the EU to make themselves poorer. Even you would have to accept there are not many people who voted to leave the EU to damage the NHS. You have to accept there are not many people who voted to leave the EU --

Peter Whittle AM: This is on-the-stumps stuff. You can go through all of those claims and you can go through the counterclaims, but my point really, Mr Mayor, was that you talk about people not knowing what a deal or a bad deal would be and all the rest of it, but you are now talking about how we should have an option for remaining. Your instinct before at the very beginning in accepting the vote was a good democratic instinct. It worries me very much that the situation that could come about psychologically in people's minds if they think democracy is somehow or other being ignored, which you are effectively urging.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, the problem with the analysis of the Assembly Member is that on the one hand he is saying what an appalling deal the Prime Minister [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] has done and how the negotiations have been appalling, but on the other hand he is accepting her framing of the false choice. What is her framing of the false choice? Her framing is, "Either there is no deal - catastrophic - or you have to accept my bad deal that I have done". Under your framing, those are the two options.

Peter Whittle AM: Mr Mayor, what I am saying is that people were not voting two years ago - or whenever it was now - on the type of deal as such. That was not their main concern. Their main concern might have been, if you like, quite big ideas or more philosophical ideas or whatever, but they were not voting on what a deal would be or not or whether indeed we left without a deal.

The point is that we can go on and on talking about the deal and I will be the first to say it has been absolutely appalling in the way that they have been trying to do a deal and no one is denying that. I am thinking that, as Mayor of London, you have to remember that 40% of Londoners voted to leave. There is not a single bit of evidence that they want another vote. This is a purely 'remain' argument, Mr Mayor.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure if that is right, by the way.

Peter Whittle AM: I am not, by the way, frightened of a second vote. It is nothing to do with that. Bring it on. The fact is that this would be appalling for democracy. You are one of the major figures of our democracy. That is what you have to remember.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Polling is shifting and showing that.

Peter Whittle AM: No, it is not.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Mr Mayor, thank you for all your answers this morning. For those of us who are so concerned about this, it is reassuring that the Mayor of London is doing everything within his powers to try to make sure London is properly represented at the table. You talk about what you are doing with the Government, but you set out a very clear scenario of how we could have a People's Vote on the final deal. What influence are you having on the official Opposition to make sure they come in behind that?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is a very fair question and it is right that you ask me that. I spent some time in Liverpool during the Labour Party conference. I am not giving away secrets, Chair, in case you are worried about me breaching party discipline here. I was there for a variety of reasons, but one of the things I was keen to do was to make sure that a motion was passed at our conference that kept all the options on the table including a public vote. Why? Because, as a Labour politician, of course I want a General Election. I want my party to be in government. You would not blame me for saying that. However, if we cannot achieve that for the reasons I have said in answer to questions that you and Caroline [Russell AM] were alluding to, the next best thing is a public vote. It is really important that we get that public vote.

Just to reassure you, that is Labour policy. I would hope that if it is the case that the deal that [The Rt Hon] Theresa May [MP, Prime Minister] does - which Peter Whittle [AM] is saying we should accept irrespective of how poor it is - is rejected by Parliament and if the General Election amendment is rejected by Parliament, then it follows that an amendment should be put down for there to be a public vote. I would hope that there are enough people in Parliament who realise that a bad Brexit deal or no deal is so bad that the public should have a say on those with the option of staying in the EU.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Let us move back on to some outstanding issues around security and policing and back to Assembly Member Pidgeon to do those questions.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you. This is an area I am hugely worried about: that London and Londoners and the country could be less safe with the Brexit deal or no deal on the table, with Europol, European Arrest Warrants, the information sharing that goes on. I know you set down six red lines around this.

Have you or your Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime [Sophie Linden] now met with the Secretary of State [The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP] or the Home Secretary [The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP] to discuss this and is there any progress in this area you can report?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have not yet met on a one-to-one with this Home Secretary [The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP], despite requests. That is the first point.

Secondly, the Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis, Cressida Dick MBE QPM] has raised her concerns officially. There is national police work taking place and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is very well represented there. We have a separate team that does work in relation to this area, a unit working in relation to this. I know that Deputy Commissioner Sir Craig Mackey QPM has spoken to you. It is a national police unit that does work in relation to this and the MPS is represented there.

The six red lines have not been met in relation to the concerns we have. Let me give you one number, which is really worth you having, Chair. The European Criminal Records Information System gives the UK access to criminal records through the EU. In 2017, 162,000 requests were made. There is a possibility, Chair, that if there is no deal with no transition, either everything is agreed or nothing is agreed, we cannot use this from 12.01am on 30 March. This will be a godsend if you are a criminal. If you are involved in organised crime, this is a godsend. If you are somebody thinking about doing cross-border crime, this is a godsend. Again, the consequences of a bad Brexit deal or no-deal are extremely serious on policing but also security as well.

I just want to say, Caroline [Pidgeon MBE AM], that one of the meetings I have tomorrow in Brussels is with the European Commissioner for the Security Union, [Sir] Julian King [KCVO CMG].

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Yes, that was one of the questions I wanted to ask you. What are you going to be raising with him specifically?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The key thing, just to reassure colleagues, when I meet with European colleagues is to explain to them the importance of a good deal. It is really important for them and for us. I will be asking Sir Julian [King KCVO CMG] about what he thinks the consequences of us doing no-deal are and also what he thinks we can still do on a bilateral basis. The word used was 'clunky' in relation to what happens on a bilateral basis if we leave. We will have to make 27 separate arrangements. We will have to have staff involved in the bureaucracy of chasing up searches and stuff. In reality, I suspect there will be only so much he can say publicly. We cannot compromise safety and security in relation to these things. Just like I said earlier on, Caroline [Pidgeon MBE AM], that you should not use people as bargaining chips, you should not use security as a bargaining chip. That is the point I will make to Sir Julian [King KCVO CMG]. If it is the case that we do not have a deal, Chair, on 29 March [2019], they should not be compromising on our security and their security as well. It is a two-way relationship. They benefit as well. I will be making that point in a courteous and polite way with him as well.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Are you hopeful that whatever happens we should be able to still have access if it is a bilateral agreement to all of these databases? Real-time information is what has helped to prevent some of these terrorist attacks in our country and in the rest of Europe.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): When I last met with [The Rt Hon] David Davis [MP, former Secretary of State for Exiting the EU], he gave me the assurance that even if we did not do a deal, the EU would see sense. That very same day, Michel Barnier [European Chief Negotiator for the UK Exiting the EU] gave a speech saying the opposite and that basically either everything is agreed or nothing is agreed and that this is part of the package. How can you allow somebody who is not a member of the EU to have access to Europol on the same terms as the EU 27? He made that understandable point. How can you allow somebody who is not a member of the EU and who has not paid the fees to have access to the Schengen Information System? How is it equitable and just for somebody who is not in the EU and does not want to join the club to have access to passenger information?

I can understand on a general level the points he is making. My concern is security and safety. There is a contradiction between what I was told by the Government about what would happen if there is no deal but also what the EU was saying. It is a worry.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is a huge worry. The Government has been burying its head in the sand on these issues and just thinks it will be all right on the night. It clearly is not going to be.

What has the Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis, Cressida Dick CBE QPM] advised you as to how no deal will impact on the ability of the MPS to police effectively in the immediate aftermath and over the longer term?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There are a number of things in that conversation we have with the police in relation to this and there are a lot of issues. There are MPS officers, MPS staff and MPS Community Support Officers who are EU citizens and not British citizens. There is an impact there in relation to human beings. There is an impact in relation to cross-border co-operation. You mentioned some of them: the European Arrest Warrant, Schengen [Information System], Europol. There is a consequence there. The National Crime Agency (NCA) does lots of work with Europe. I received a presentation this week at the Violent Crime Task Force meeting from the NCA about the cross-border stuff, particularly with the Baltic countries and guns, and all the concerns in relation to that. It is a huge source of concern.

Just to give you one example of the concern, a good example that affects our communities, think about the drugs in London. There is evidence that a lot of this comes from Colombia, not part of the EU, but working together as the EU we are more effective in relation to stopping the drugs coming from Colombia than we will be as the UK outside the EU. That has a direct impact on violent crime in our cities. We are very concerned.

As I said, there is a national police unit that the MPS has a huge role in that is working with the Home Office. The MPS and the NCA have received some funding from the [HM] Treasury to do some contingency planning, but we are hoping that that will not be required in relation to the work they do because we will reach a deal on this. There is still some hope we can do a deal with the EU in relation to this.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: On the issue of the drug trade coming from Colombia, the Border Force is critical in this and yet --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I have stolen your question, but you will have seen the concern raised by the NAO and others this week about the confidence they have in our Border Force. Chair, you mentioned the

ports in London. I interrupted Caroline Pidgeon [MBE AM] and the point she was going to make. My apologies for this; we are on the same wavelength. If the NAO is saying that now, what is going to happen in the future in relation to this issue? It is a real issue. Peter Whittle [AM] may say I am not a democrat, but did the British people realise that the UKBA [now UK Visas and Immigration, UK Border Force and Immigration Enforcement] would not have the staff to make sure we are safe from these sorts of issues when they voted to leave the EU?

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Is this something that the Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis, Cressida Dick] and others are also looking at in terms of the potential for increased drugs coming in and the links to county lines and all the other concerns?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. All these things are being explored by the national police unit. As I said to you, what I can reassure you about is that because we are the MPS, the biggest police service in the country, we are well placed to make sure they know our concerns in relation to these issues.

Kent is another example. Kent has big issues, not just in relation to the M26 and M20 being turned into a carpark, but in relation to the ports that come into Kent at Dover, Felixstowe, Folkestone and all the rest.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Lovely. Thank you very much.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Mr Mayor, you are meeting a number of people in Brussels. Can you just remind us who you are meeting?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I do not have the complete list. I do know two of the names. One of them is Michel Barnier, who is the Chief Negotiator on behalf of the EU. The second is the Security Commissioner, who is British, by the way. There is a British person in charge of security at the EU and we are giving that up, but some would say that is a great thing. I am also meeting some vice presidents as well. I do not have a list here, but I am sure we can make sure we get that to you this afternoon.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): The case you are going to be making is virtually along the lines of the security that you have just made during the answer to that question and with Barnier much wider issues?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. The key thing is that it may be the case that we are leaving the EU but we are not leaving Europe. We need to have good relationships with Brussels and with the EU. It is really important.

Also, Chair, I should have said that in addition to going to Brussels tomorrow, later on this year I will be going to Paris, Berlin and Dublin. One of the things you said to me in your first question was about jobs and the economy. Look, we may be leaving the EU, but we are not leaving Europe. We still have to do trade with these countries to be able to build on the good relationships we have with them and make sure they go deeper and are more meaningful.

I am concerned that often when you are overseas and you read British newspapers you may get the wrong impression that somehow we are anti-Europe. Even the people who voted to leave the EU are not anti-Europe. They just did not want to stay in the EU and there were other concerns that they have. I would not want an impression to be created amongst people in Brussels that even though we could be leaving the EU we are somehow going to be hostile towards our friends and family in the EU.

Len Duvall AM (Chair): Thank you for the way you have answered these questions. We will follow up with the various bits of information that will be of use to us. We will want to reflect on what you have told us today and our second session for this morning. We will come back to you when we have reflected on what you have said to us.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Please do. Thanks very much.