

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Tony Arbour AM**

Chairman of the London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

**Our ref:** MGLA190219-6069

**Date:** 20 MAR 2019

*Dear Chairman Arbour,*

Thank you for your letter received on 19 February about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 7 February. My reply to each motion is set out below:

**Motion 1 – Stem cell donations**

I was pleased to be able to welcome the NHS Blood and Transfusion team, and a number of other donor organisations to City Hall last month. I was able to speak to organisations like Anthony Nolan and Team Margot about the important work they are doing to promote bone marrow and stem cell donations. At the information event, that accompanied a blood donation session, staff and visitors to City Hall were able to sign up to the bone marrow and stem cell register. I myself signed up as I was waiting to donate blood. Donation improves and saves the lives of Londoners, and I will continue to do all I can to promote these issues through my role of championing the NHS.

**Motion 2 – Vandalism in London of RAF Bomber Command Memorial**

Thank you for highlighting this important issue - I too condemn the vandalism of monuments and statues in London. It is distressing to see memorials of those who have served the country mistreated in such a way and for someone to have complete disregard for the sacrifices people in the armed forces have made to give us the freedoms we enjoy today. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has my full support in bringing the offender to justice.

The MPS is currently investigating the offences that took place and have released footage of the alleged perpetrator. If the public have any information in connection with the offence, they are encouraged to contact the MPS via 101 or social media or to call Crimestoppers. At this time, no arrests have been made and the investigation is still open.

**Motion 3 – Processes regarding storage centres**

I welcome the motion and thank the Assembly for its support in calling for an urgent review into the regulations and processes relating to the self-storage industry. On 28 January, I wrote to the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP asking for such a review. My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, has met with affected customers and continues to review the issues they have raised. We both remain committed to seeking changes within the industry and seeking to ensure that lessons are learnt from this terrible fire.

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## **Motion 4 – Female Genital Mutilation**

I agree that we all need to continue to raise awareness of all forms of Female Genital Mutilation and the lifelong and life changing consequences that affect women and girls because of these acts. I am pleased that you feel this is a key area.

I too commend the activists who work tirelessly within communities to raise awareness, the police who carry out investigations, along with the communities taking the step in bringing the subject to light.

I have invested £200,000 to match fund and support London Councils Harmful Practices programme, to avoid duplication of support and ensure complementarity. The London Councils Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Grants Programme is providing three years funding to the Ascent Consortium to support 623 women and girls (annually) from Black Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities, across London affected by Harmful Practices within the spectrum of domestic and sexual violence.

My Office for Policing And Crime will be launching a community-based campaign to bring about attitude change towards this crime. As my strategy on tackling VAWG outlines, working with a broad partnership of agencies, communities and organisations is the key to preventing FGM and protecting girls.

## **Motion 5 – Awareness of hepatitis C**

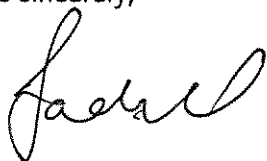
There are an estimated 41,500 people living with hepatitis C in London. Many of them will be among the most vulnerable and socially excluded people in our society including the homeless and rough sleepers, those who inject drugs, and people in prison. My health adviser, Dr Tom Coffey, recently met with the Hep C Trust, Public Health England and the London Joint Working Group on Hep C and Substance Abuse to discuss what I could do to support the efforts led by NHSE to eliminate hepatitis C as a health threat by 2025. I am particularly keen to raise public awareness of Hep C and the new treatments available. Specific actions on this will take place around World Hepatitis C day on 28 July.

Dr Coffey will also be chairing a roundtable event at City Hall before the summer that will bring together key stakeholders working on hepatitis C across London. The aims of the event will be to consider how we can promote a more streamlined strategy across the capital and minimise fragmentation in the care pathway, as well as to share good practice and up to date information.

## **Motion 6 – Housing policies to allow pets**

I support Londoners being able to keep pets in their homes. Whether pets are allowed in homes is currently at the discretion the landlord, and so I will encourage housing associations and local authorities to engage with the Pet Friendly Properties campaign run by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home – the launch of which my Deputy Mayor for Housing spoke.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London