

To: Caroline Russell AM  
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee  
and  
Dr Onkar Sahota AM  
Chair of the Health Committee  
London Assembly  
City Hall  
Kamal Chunchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE

NHS England  
Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8UG

10 July 2023

Dear Caroline and Onkar,

### **London's Preparedness to Respond to a Major Terrorist Incident**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 June 2023 regarding your 2022 joint investigation into counter terrorism and radicalisation in London and in particular to funding of the London Ambulance Service (LAS). NHS England (London) welcomes the opportunity to clarify how we are working with LAS in this respect and would value earlier engagement with yourselves on any future investigations around London's immediate and long-term preparedness for any major incidents in the capital.

It should be noted that the second Lord Harris review, despite including specific elements for emergency services and health, did not approach either myself or the NHS England (London) Regional Lead for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) in relation to NHS resilience planning in London. Unfortunately, this led to some gaps in the report which we had sought the ability to rectify via Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in June 2022.

NHS England (London) acknowledges the increased threat of terrorism in the capital, and confirms we are working with LAS through a process of commissioning to meet specific demands. LAS receives its funding from the contract with London commissioners but also from central national funding sources for elements of its specialist response.

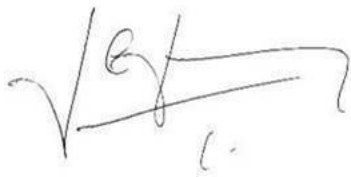
London health commissioners have a collaborative commissioning arrangement to commission the services and manage the commissioning contract with LAS. This agreement sets out the terms under which commissioners intend to collaborate in assessing the need for services, and to work together in procuring, negotiating, and signing the commissioning contract and managing the contract throughout its term. London health commissioners receive assurance on the effectiveness and sustainability of LAS services annually.



LAS submitted its 2023/24 plan in May confirming that the trust will be able to deliver its services within its expected funding envelope. Negotiations are currently ongoing with London commissioners on the final contract value.

NHS England (London) are assured that operationally LAS is adequately resourced to be able to respond to incidents (including major terrorist incidents).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Machray', written over a horizontal line.

**Martin Machray**  
Executive Director of Performance

