

MDA No.: 1754

Title: GLA Oversight Committee Visit to Paris

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the GLA Oversight Committee meeting on 19 July 2018 the Committee resolved:

“That authority be delegated to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee to approve, following consultation with the Deputy Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee and, where appropriate, the relevant Assembly Committee Chair (and any other member as deemed necessary), any non-routine expenditure in relation to the Assembly’s scrutiny functions, with the exception of expenditure for polling, which is subject to separate procedures, as outlined in the Assembly’s Decision-Making Framework.

- 1.2 Accordingly, the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee is now asked, following consultation with other Assembly Members as detailed below, to approve expenditure of up to £2,423.49 to meet costs associated with the GLA Oversight Committee’s visit to Paris as part of its investigation on London’s place in the Government’s devolution reforms.

2. Decision

- 2.1 **That the Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee approves expenditure of up to £2,423.49 for the purposes of the Committee’s visit to Paris as part of its investigation on London’s place in the Government’s devolution reforms.**

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Printed Name: Bassam Mahfouz AM

Date: 2 September 2025

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 It was agreed by GLA Oversight Committee Group Leads that a visit to Paris would be arranged as part of the Committee's investigation on London's place in the Government's devolution reforms.
- 3.2 Four Assembly Members (Bassam Mahfouz AM, Caroline Russell AM, Elly Baker AM and Joanne McCartney AM) along with two Secretariat officers (the Assistant Director, Scrutiny & Investigation and Research Analyst) attended the visit on 17 July 2025.
- 3.3 The visit included meetings at the OECD and Paris City Hall, and therefore taxi journeys were required to transport the group around Paris.
- 3.4 Costs for the visit are broken down as follows: Eurostar tickets (£2,200), 3 taxi journeys (£166.57), and subsistence costs (£56.92).
- 3.5 Approval is sought for the necessary expenditure on associated costs, as this is considered non-routine spend. Spend will cover standard visit costs such as travel and subsistence.
- 3.6 The Assembly party Group Leaders have also been consulted on this proposed decision and have not raised objections.
- 3.7 The exercise of delegated authority will be formally reported to the GLA Oversight Committee at its next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): *Judith Smyth*

Printed Name: Judith Smyth

Date: 6 August 2025

Financial Implications:

The cost of the visit was up to £2,423.49. There was sufficient budget within the Scrutiny non-staffing budget in 2025-26 to meet the cost of this event.


Signature (Finance): 

Printed Name: Trisha Brigemohane

Date: 29/08/25

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rory McKenna, Monitoring Officer

Date: 2 September 2025

Email: rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Emma Best AM
- Caroline Russell AM
- Hina Bokhari OBE AM

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred?

Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

Lead Officer / Author

Signature:



Printed Name: Zoe Oliver-Watts

Job Title: Assistant Director of Scrutiny and Investigations

Date: 12 August 2025

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature:



Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 28 August 2025