

The London Assembly GLA Oversight Committee has launched an investigation into its ways of working in Plenary. The investigation aims to:

- Collect and assess Members' views on current Plenary ways of working, and the overall purpose of Plenaries at the Assembly
- Identify any challenges presented by current Plenary practice, processes or culture in achieving its purpose and having the desired impact. This will include all plenary processes including Q&As, motions and petitions.
- Review proposals from Members, staff and external partners for potential reforms to Assembly Plenary practices in the short-and-medium term.
- Explore longer-term options for the future of Assembly Plenaries.

Below is information about the investigation and Call for Evidence, as well as key questions the Committee is interested in hearing about.

#### **Who can submit evidence?**

This Call for Evidence is open to all who would like to respond. We particularly welcome responses from academics with parliamentary or Plenary expertise, other scrutiny bodies with similar functions, and people or organisations that have been involved with Plenary or any of its elements – for example, question sessions, petitions or motions.

#### **Why is the Committee exploring this topic?**

The London Assembly investigates issues of importance to Londoners and is the body that holds the Mayor to account. In part, it does this through Plenary.

Plenary meetings are formal, public meetings of the whole Assembly. In current practice there are nine Plenary meetings scheduled each year. Most Plenary meetings currently follow a general structure consisting of a Q&A session with invited guests in the morning, followed by deliberation of Motions and representation of petitions in the afternoon. The Q&A session typically focuses on scrutiny of the Mayor and GLA or GLA family bodies such as the London Fire Commissioner or Transport for London.

In the Assembly's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Committee is keen to reflect on the Assembly's ways of working in Plenary, to ensure that it continues to deliver for Londoners.

#### **Will responses be published?**

Yes, in the large majority of circumstances we will publish written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it online. This is so that there is transparency about what evidence the Committee has received.

Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or to not be published (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Committee will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally

identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### What will the evidence I provide be used for?

The responses to this Call for Evidence may be used to inform recommendations, which will likely be in a report.

If information and/or quotations from submissions to this call for evidence are used in this output, we will cite you. We inform those who have submitted evidence about the outcome of the investigation in the form of a link to a report or output when it is published.

### Where can I find your privacy notice?

The London Assembly and the GLA are committed to protecting your privacy and personal data when you contact us or submit evidence. You can find the GLA's privacy notice [here](#).

### Do I need to answer all the questions?

No, you are welcome to answer the questions that are most relevant to you or your organisations and to which you have the most expertise or experience.

### How do I submit evidence?

Please send evidence in a Word document format (not PDF) by email to: [scrutiny@london.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@london.gov.uk)

Please use 'GLA Oversight Committee call for evidence' as the subject title.

The deadline for submission is 5pm on Friday 26 February 2026.

### Key questions

A Plenary session is a meeting of the whole Assembly. They are generally used to put questions to guests on topics such as policing, transport or housing; for the debate of motions; and for the representation of petitions. Plenaries are one of the ways that the London Assembly fulfils its stated purpose of holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues of importance to Londoners. In answering the following questions, you can draw on your experience of London Assembly Plenaries or of examples of similar scrutiny processes in other bodies.

1. How could a Plenary system work best, for elected Members and the public?
2. What are some of the characteristics of a question session that helps deliver effective scrutiny? What can hold this back?
3. What impacts the effectiveness of Motions, and how can they be best used?
4. How can a petitions process have the greatest impact?
5. How does or could the process of scrutiny reflect or engage with the priorities of the public?

6. If you have been involved with a London Assembly Plenary in any form (including as an observer), please share your views on this experience.
7. What changes, if any, could the Assembly consider making to its current Plenary system?

### About the Committee

The GLA Oversight Committee monitors scrutiny expenditure and oversees the programming of the Assembly's business. It also recommends to the Mayor a budget proposal for the Assembly and allocates the budget for the financial year.

### Committee Members

- Bassam Mahfouz AM (Chair)
- Emma Best AM (Deputy Chairman)
- Caroline Russell AM
- Elly Baker AM
- Hina Bokhari OBE AM
- Lord Duvall of Woolwich OBE AM
- Alessandro Georgiou AM
- Joanne McCartney AM
- Keith Prince AM

### Contact

Submissions	<a href="mailto:Scrutiny@london.gov.uk">Scrutiny@london.gov.uk</a>
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	Please send your submissions in a Word document format (not PDF) by 5pm on Friday 26 February 2026.
Further information	Becka Storer, Research Unit lead <a href="mailto:Rebecca.storer@london.gov.uk">Rebecca.storer@london.gov.uk</a>