

MDA No.: 1776

Title: Consultation on Arrangements for People's Question Time

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the GLA Oversight Committee meeting on 27 February 2025, the Committee resolved that:

"That authority be delegated to the Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee, following consultation with the Deputy Chair and Party Group Leads, to respond to further consultations outside this meeting regarding specific future People's Question Time dates, of venues during the period of this Mayoral and Assembly Term".

1.2 Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to the Head of Events for London on the arrangements for the September 2025 People's Question Time meeting, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the GLA Oversight Committee's letter in response to the proposed arrangements for the September 2025 People's Question Time meeting be agreed.**

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, Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee**

Date: **15 August 2025**

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 Section 48 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires the Mayor of London and the London Assembly to hold a meeting which is open to all members of the public twice in every financial year. This meeting is referred to as People's Question Time. The form of, and procedure for, People's Question Time shall be such as the Mayor may determine after consultation with the Assembly.
- 3.2 The terms of reference for the GLA Oversight Committee requires the Committee to provide a response from the Assembly on consultations for arrangements for People's Question Time.
- 3.3 On 7 August 2025, the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee received a request from the Head of Events for London to respond to proposals for arrangements for the People's Question Time in September 2025. This letter is attached as **Annex 1**.
- 3.4 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter to the Head of Events for London on the arrangements for the September 2025 People's Question Time meeting will be formally noted at the GLA Oversight Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): Judith Smyth

Printed Name: Judith Smyth

Date: 15 August 2025


Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signature (Finance): Not required

Legal Implications:

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: 15 August 2025

Email: Monitoringofficer@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

All Group Leaders have been consulted.

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? NO

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

Lead Officer / Author


Signature: ZOW

Printed Name: Zoe Oliver-Watts

Job Title: Assistant Director, Scrutiny & Investigation

Date: 15 August 2025

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 15 August 2025



Bassam Mahfouz AM
Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee

David Holley
Head of Events for London

(Sent by email)

15 August 2025

Dear David,

GLA Oversight Committee – People’s Question Time –Consultation.

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August 2025 regarding the proposal for the next People’s Question Time (PQT) to take place on 17 September 2025.

The GLA Oversight Committee raises no objection regarding the proposed date of or venue for PQT. Some Members did note that the date coincides with President Trump’s planned visit to the UK and would be keen to understand what consideration has been given to how that might affect arrangements for PQT – for example travel disruption.

The Assembly raised concerns in its 14 May letter regarding the short timescales for the consultation response for the State of London Debate which had to be dealt with outside of an Oversight Committee meeting. I appreciate that a September date is being proposed following feedback from the Assembly Members regarding avoiding the impact of darker evenings and welcome this. However, conducting this consultation with a week’s response time, during the Assembly’s August recess, creates difficulties for full engagement with the Committee. I hope we can return to the practice of consultations being discussed at full meetings wherever possible.

In addition, Assembly Members that are not Oversight Committee Group Leads are now unlikely to know the date of PQT before it is publicly advertised. Consulting with the Oversight Committee at an earlier stage would ensure all participants have sufficient notice on when this important event is held and have the best possible chance of attending.

As you may be aware, the Oversight Committee routinely publishes substantive correspondence. However, I am aware that the venue for PQT remains confidential for the time being and I will therefore arrange for your letter and this reply to be published only after PQT has taken place.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bassam".

Bassam Mahfouz AM
Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee