

MAYOR OF LONDON

Bassam Mahfouz AM

Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee
C/o Paul.Goodchild@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA170226-4478

Date: 27 April 2026

Dear Bassam,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Government's consultation on the tourist levy.

I am grateful for the Committee's engagement on this topic and for the details in your recent report, [Trusting London to Deliver: our place in the Government's devolution reforms](#) (September 2025). The insights drawn from international cities such as New York, Paris, Milan and Toronto provide valuable evidence that will help shape London's approach.

As you note, London is an outlier among major global cities in not having a tourist levy. Cities around the world have used tourist levies for many years to help generate economic growth.

I therefore welcome the Government's decision to consult on devolving powers for a tourist levy to mayoral authorities. This is something I have long called for, and it aligns with the experience of other global cities.

As your report highlights, the principles of flexibility in rate-setting and transparent engagement with stakeholders are essential. The experience of cities like Paris, Milan and Toronto demonstrates that a well-designed levy can support growth while maintaining visitor demand.

My team is already in regular contact with a range of stakeholders with an interest in this area. We currently await the Government's response to its consultation on the principles of the levy and fundamental questions about its design.

Once we have understood the Government's response, we will start work on the next stages of the process. In doing so, I will work closely with local authorities, business representatives, and tourism and hospitality stakeholders. This collaborative approach will also help ensure that the design of the levy is simple to implement, proportionate, and aligned with the needs of the whole of London. As always, my team and I look forward to responding to the Assembly's feedback about this work as it progresses.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Thank you again for your constructive and detailed input.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan' with a small '2' below the 'h'.

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London