



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

0207 219 4682

Len Duvall AM
Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

4 May 2018

Dear Len,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 10 April 2018.

TfL wrote to the Garden Bridge Trust on the 27 May 2016 giving the Trust access to an additional £15m of public funding and loans in support of the project continuing. Further correspondence between TfL and the Garden Bridge Trust on the 28 September reconfirmed an underwriting of £9m (part of the DfT's contribution to the project). Both of these assurances were made after I had left office and I can only assume with the full support of the current Mayor. These additional financial assurances were matched with supportive comments and statements from the current Mayor to the Garden Bridge Trust, encouraging them to continue with the project. In my view, if the Mayor had made a decision not to support the project at the start of his term in office, then whatever proportion of this funding that has been spent (estimated at £9m) could have been saved.

In relation to your comment about TfL processes, decisions made by Mike Brown are clearly a matter for him as the Commissioner of TfL. However, my understanding is that any communication was Mike Brown clarifying previously existing positions and reminding people of the rules, in line with the TfL Audit position. To imply these actions were as a result of wrongdoing on the part of any one individual is false.

Mayoral Direction (MD) 1472 approves the provision of a GLA guarantee to the PLA, Westminster and Lambeth in respect of the ongoing maintenance of the Garden Bridge. MD 1647 amends this to align with the position agreed between the Garden Bridge Trust and Westminster and Lambeth as a result of negotiation on the respective Section 106 Agreements. Both Westminster and Lambeth indicated they would impose requirements through respective Section 106 Agreements for the Garden Bridge Trust to prepare and submit for approval and Operations and Maintenance Business Plan which would include the funding strategy for the first five years of operation. To maintain consistency with the position adopted by the two local planning authorities, it was proposed that this document should provide the evidence on which the Mayor satisfies himself of the satisfactory nature of the Trust's funding strategy for the first five years of operation, which led to the changes set out in MD 1647.

Both the Commissioner and General Counsel of TfL ensured the TfL Board was kept regularly informed of progress with the Garden Bridge project. This included regular progress updates in the Commissioners Report (at least 10 separate updates to the Board from commencement of the project in early 2013 to the end of my term in 2016); specific reporting of Mayoral Directions and reporting of the recommendations from the audit and assurance committee.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'B' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP