

Gareth Bacon AM, Chairman of GLA Oversight Committee

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**The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**

Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
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Sent via email

29 June 2018

*Dear Home Secretary,*

**Emergency Services Network (London) – update request**

On 18 July 2017, the London Assembly's GLA Oversight Committee held a question and answer session regarding issues and risks associated with the development of the Emergency Services Network (ESN) in London with representatives from the Home Office, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the London Fire Brigade (LFB) the London Ambulance Service, Transport for London (TfL) and the National Service Director of the Ambulance Radio Programme.

As you will be aware, it is intended for the ESN to deliver numerous improvements over Airwave, the existing system, and £3.6 billion of benefits over a 17-year period as it is rolled out across Great Britain. However, its implementation in London poses particular challenges due to the need for the emergency services to communicate on the London Underground.

During the course of its investigation the London Assembly's committee identified a number of risks that potentially make the implementation of the ESN across London particularly challenging:

- 1) It is intended for the ESN to use the same 4G network as the public in order to deliver maximum value for money. At present, only 77% of London is covered by 4G which is short of the requirement to deliver an effective ESN solution;
- 2) It is not clear that the ESN will deliver an improved communications system to London's emergency services that will allow for it to be used effectively across the underground network, particularly if a response to a major incident is required: and
- 3) At the time of the GLA Oversight Committee meeting in September of last year, the timetable for delivery of the system had slipped up to nine months. Additionally, both the British Transport Police and the MPS have identified significant issues associated with the timelines for implementation changing.

# LONDON ASSEMBLY

The Committee is keen to ensure that a solution is developed that works for London and mitigates both financial and operational risk. To this end, the Committee would be grateful for the following:

- 1) A comprehensive update regarding the status of the roll-out of the ESN, including progress that EE has made delivering coverage on the London Underground for ESN; and
- 2) A revised timetable for delivery of the project.

I look forward to your response.

Your sincerely



**Gareth Bacon AM**  
**Chairman, London Assembly GLA Oversight Committee**