

# LONDON ASSEMBLY

Len Duvall AM, Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee

London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA

## **Sadiq Khan**

Mayor of London  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2 AA

7 February 2018

Dear Sadiq

### **Use of Personal Data by the GLA Group**

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2018.

You will be aware that the GLA Oversight Committee commenced its investigations into the use of personal data by the GLA group in February 2017. A further question and answer session was held in September 2017.

The resulting letter to you highlighted issues around the use of personal data by Transport for London (TfL) in relation to monitoring customers' WiFi use at its tube stations, and in particular, the trialing of facial recognition technology by the Metropolitan Police.

I appreciate the assurances in your correspondence regarding the steps being taken across the GLA Group to prepare for the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) regulations commencing in May 2018 and the priority placed on information security.

However, as you point out, it is incumbent on us as an organisation, to be transparent with Londoners regarding the benefits and risks associated with the collection and use of their personal data, particularly by organisations that impact the daily lives of Londoners, such as TfL and the Met Police.

I was therefore disappointed to see no mention in your letter of the Met's continuing use of facial recognition technology. While the Met has to improve the way it uses technology to tackle crime, it must also maintain the confidence of the public; introducing facial recognition technology without debate risks undermining the public's trust in the Met. I therefore once again ask you to consider suspending the use of this technology until a clear legal framework is in place and MOPAC has conducted a meaningful consultation process.

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To this end, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you how this might be progressed and how we might jointly participate in discussing such an important issue with Londoners.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Len Duvall', written in a cursive style.

**Len Duvall AM**  
**Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee**