

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP**

House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 07 APR 2017

*Aca Margaret,*

I am writing to thank you for your independent review of the Garden Bridge project.

Your report raises extremely serious questions about the way the Garden Bridge project was handled under the previous administration at City Hall and its current financial viability. We will now take time to thoroughly understand your findings, to read the evidence you have collated and to think through its implications for the future.

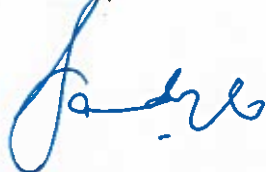
I have been clear since I became Mayor that I will not spend a penny more of taxpayers' funds, for which I am responsible, on the Garden Bridge. That remains the case.

I would like to reassure you on one of the issues raised in your report – how the previous Mayor influenced TfL practice on this project in areas like procurement. These were concerns that I shared when I came into office and from day one I sought to address them. A key part of this was putting in place a new, stronger TfL Board following a highly competitive recruitment process.

The new Board has a greater ability to provide proper oversight and scrutiny over decision-making, including how Mayoral Directions are implemented and ensuring that relevant processes are followed. I have been assured that any Mayoral Directions involving TfL are now properly recorded, reported to the Board and fed into TfL's financial monitoring and reporting processes. We have made great efforts to ensure that TfL is fully transparent in its financial and performance reporting, all meetings are held in public and we pursue the highest standards of public accountability. In light of the review, we will consider whether any further improvements are required to TfL processes and practice.

Thank you again for your thorough report.

Best wishes,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London