

<b>MDA No.</b>	1	2	7	4
----------------	---	---	---	---

Title: Letter to Mayor – Long COVID

### **Executive Summary**

On 25 June 2020, the Health Committee noted the following standing delegation:

*At its Annual Meeting on 15 May 2020, the Assembly agreed to delegate authority to the Chair of the Health Committee, in consultation with the Deputy Chair of the Health Committee, to agree any outputs of that Committee, in accordance with the agreed work programme, for the period up until the May 2021 GLA elections.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chair, the Chair of the Health Committee wrote a letter to the Mayor on the impact of long COVID on Londoners. The letter is attached at **Appendix 1**. It will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

### **Decision**

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair, agree the letter to the Mayor, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **Assembly Member**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

**Signature**

**Date** 05/03/2021



**Printed Name**

Dr Onkar Sahota AM, Chair of the Health Committee

# Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

*Notes:*

1. *The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.*
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

**Background and proposed next steps:**

On 25 June 2020, the Health Committee noted the following standing delegation:

*At its Annual Meeting on 15 May 2020, the Assembly agreed to delegate authority to the Chair of the Health Committee, in consultation with the Deputy Chair of the Health Committee, to agree any outputs of that Committee, in accordance with the agreed work programme, for the period up until the May 2021 GLA elections.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chair, the Chair of the Health Committee wrote a letter to the Mayor on the impact of long COVID on Londoners. The letter is attached at **Appendix 1**. It will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

**Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision**


Signed by Committee Services	L J Harvey	Date	23/02/21
Print Name: Lauren Harvey		Tel:	x4383

**Financial implications**  
**NOT REQUIRED**

Signed by Finance	N/A	Date	.....
Print Name	N/A	Tel:	.....

**Legal implications**

The Chair of the Health Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal		Date	23/02/2021
Print Name	Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer	Tel:	X 4399

Additional information should be provided supported by background papers. These could include for example the business case, a project report or the results of procurement evaluation.

**Supporting detail/List of Consultees:**

Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair of the Health Committee)

**Public Access to Information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

**Part 1 – Deferral**

**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No**

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**Part 2 – Sensitive information**

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

**Is there a part 2 form - No**

**Lead Officer/Author**

Signed

Aoife Nolan

Date:  
23/02/2021

Print Name

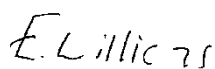
**Aoife Nolan**

Tel: x4067

Job Title

**External Communications Officer**

Countersigned by  
Director



Date:  
25.02.2021

Print Name

**Ed Williams**

Tel: x4399

**City Hall**

The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Tel: 020 7983 4000  
[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

# LONDON ASSEMBLY



**Dr Onkar Sahota AM**  
**Chair of the Health Committee**

Sadiq Khan  
Mayor of London  
(Sent by email)

5 March 2021

Dear Sadiq,

I am writing to you on the issue of long COVID and how it is impacting Londoners across our city. Long COVID refers to when the symptoms of COVID-19 last for weeks and months. The symptoms of long COVID include fatigue, breathlessness, anxiety and depression, palpitations, chest pain, joint or muscle pain and not being able to think straight or focus.<sup>1</sup> As more research emerges on long COVID, the list of symptoms is bound to get more extensive.

It is estimated that one in five people who have COVID-19 will experience long COVID. Up until 1 March 2021, 696,649 Londoners have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began.<sup>2</sup> That means, from our analysis, 139,330 Londoners have had or are experiencing long COVID. As COVID-19 continues to spread and the number of reports of long COVID is getting higher, our city must be prepared to treat those Londoners who are experiencing prolonged symptoms linked to this deadly virus, all of which are having a devastating impact on their quality of life.

As Mayor of London, your Health Inequalities Strategy commits you to working with the NHS to ensure that all Londoners have equal access to healthcare but there are still gaps in our health services that need addressing. Data published by our Committee in December 2020 revealed trends where more ethnically diverse and deprived boroughs have lower GP satisfaction and higher COVID-

---

<sup>1</sup> British Heart Foundation - <https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/news/coronavirus-and-your-health/long-covid>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-numbers-london>

19 deaths. As the boroughs get less diverse and deprived, GP experiences and COVID-19 death rates improve. We know that COVID-19 has not affected all Londoners equally. BAME Londoners and the most disadvantaged Londoners have experienced a far higher likelihood of illness and death from the disease. If the current COVID-19 trends are anything to go by, the effects of long COVID will not be distributed equally across our city.

In light of these new figures, please could you outline to our Committee what you are doing as Mayor of London, through the Health Inequalities Strategy and working with the London Health Board, to support all Londoners who are experiencing the life-changing symptoms of long COVID.

I would be grateful to receive a response to our findings and recommendations by 17 March 2021. Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk, Lauren Harvey (Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Onkar Sahota', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM**  
**Chair of the Health Committee**