

# MDA No.: 1388

## Title: Animal Cruelty

### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 10 February 2022 the Assembly resolved that:

*Authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Leaders, to write to West Ham United, and the RSPCA, regarding an incident of animal cruelty demonstrated by the football player Kurt Zouma on social media.*

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Leaders, the Chair agreed the Assembly's letters to West Ham United, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) regarding an incident of animal cruelty demonstrated by the football player Kurt Zouma on social media, as attached at **Appendices 1 and 2**.

### 2. Decision

3.1 **That the London Assembly's letters to West Ham United, and the RSPCA, regarding an incident of animal cruelty demonstrated by the football player Kurt Zouma on social media, be agreed.**

#### 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:



Printed Name: **Andrew Boff AM**

Date: **25 February 2022**

### 3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

#### Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 At the 10 February 2022 Plenary meeting, the Chair agreed to consider a further item of business, regarding concerns at the incident of animal cruelty demonstrated by the football player Kurt Zouma on a video recently exposed on social media.
- 3.2 It was proposed and agreed at that meeting for letters to be sent on behalf of the Assembly to Kurt Zouma's football club, West Ham United, and the RSPCA.
- 3.3 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letters will be formally noted at the GLA Oversight Committee's next appropriate meeting.

#### Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services):



Printed Name: Davena Toyinbo

Date: 21/02/2022

Telephone Number: 07521 266519

#### Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name: N/A

Date: N/A

Telephone Number: N/A

#### Legal Implications:

The Chair of London Assembly has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal):



Printed Name: Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Date: 25/02/2022

Telephone Number: 07971 101 375

### **Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:**

- Len Duvall AM
- Susan Hall AM
- Caroline Russell AM
- Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

## **4. Public Access to Information**

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 **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

If yes, until what date:

### **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**

Signature: 

Printed Name: Davena Toyinbo

Job Title: Principal Committee Manager

Date: 21/02/2022

Telephone Number: 07521 266519

**Countersigned by Executive Director:**

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 25/02/2022

Telephone Number: 07729 10898

# LONDON ASSEMBLY

**City Hall**  
Kamal Chunchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE

Tel: 020 7983 4000  
[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)



Appendix 1

**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**

Mr Sullivan & Mr Gold  
Joint Chairmen  
West Ham United

(Sent by email)

25 February 2022

Dear Mr Sullivan and Mr Gold,

I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly to express our deep concern at the appalling incident of animal cruelty demonstrated by Kurt Zouma on the video recently exposed on social media. We are very concerned that a prominent London footballer in the public eye has demonstrated such shocking and unacceptable behaviour.

We are delighted to hear that the RSPCA has now seized the cats, pending an investigation of the incident by Essex Police, and that the club has fined the player for his abhorrent behaviour.

The London Assembly is clear that it supports the full extent of the law being brought to bear on Kurt Zouma for this incident. It is totally unacceptable for any person to behave so shamefully, let alone a prominent footballer who should be a role model for young Londoners.

We urge the club to ensure that its players have a renewed commitment to being positive ambassadors for both their club and for London.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**



Appendix 2

**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**

Chris Sherwood  
Chief Executive  
RSPCA

(Sent by email)

25 February 2022

Dear Mr Sherwood,

I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly to express our deep concern at the appalling incident of animal cruelty demonstrated by Kurt Zouma on the video recently exposed on social media. We are very concerned that a prominent London footballer in the public eye has demonstrated such shocking and unacceptable behaviour.

We are delighted to hear that the RSPCA has now seized the cats, pending an investigation of the incident by Essex Police, and that the club has fined the player for his abhorrent behaviour.

The London Assembly is clear that it supports the full extent of the law being brought to bear on Kurt Zouma for this incident. It is totally unacceptable for any person to behave so shamefully, let alone a prominent footballer who should be a role model for young Londoners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**