

## Mayor's Question Time – Thursday, 16 January 2020

### Transcript of Item 4 – Mayor's Report

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Good morning. I am today calling on the Prime Minister to do all he can to help secure the immediate release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and to meet with her husband, Richard Ratcliffe, as a matter of urgency. Nazanin is a Londoner and London stands in solidarity with her. She has suffered for more than three years after being wrongly imprisoned in Iran and was recently admitted to a clinic due to ill health. With rising political tensions in Iran, there is simply no time to waste. The Prime Minister needs to step up, right this wrong and ensure that Nazanin and other British prisoners being wrongly held in Iran are able to return home safely and be reunited with their families.

Chair, we are also announcing today that City Hall will be awarding a further £60,000 in funding to community groups providing vital help and information to European Londoners about staying in the United Kingdom (UK) after Brexit. The UK might be leaving the European Union (EU) but we will always be part of Europe and it is now more important than ever that we get the message out there that EU citizens living in our city belong here and will always be welcome in London. Our microgrants have already helped community groups engage thousands of marginalised European Londoners and I am delighted that we are able to reach out to many more with this round of funding.

Since the last Mayor's Question Time (MQT) meeting, I have also been working on a number of other initiatives to improve the lives of Londoners. This includes continuing to get more social and council homes built, ensuring our transport system remains affordable for all, cleaning up our toxic air and continuing to do everything possible to tackle violent crime, not only by cracking down on criminals but by tackling the root causes of violent crime. I look forward to answering, Chair, questions from the Assembly this morning.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Thank you. Can I see any questions to the Mayor? Assembly Member Boff.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, you quite rightly alluded to the very important subject of the number of social and council homes that were being built in London. If you are that concerned, why has it taken so long for you to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Housing? Could you let us know when that appointment will take place and whether or not you have any particular people in mind?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question and thanks for your interest in housing, bearing in mind your other role on the Housing Committee. At the moment Jules Pipe [CBE] is the Deputy Mayor for Housing, the job previously done by James Murray MP. I hope to make an announcement in due course and certainly before the next MQT.