Transport

Mayor's Oral Report

Question Number: 2015/1603 21 May 2015 Jennette Arnold AM

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): I have received one particular question from Jenny [Jenny Jones AM] about the tragic accident involving a lorry driver. I want to offer my deep condolences to the family and friends of Alan Neve, who died. Jenny, the difficulty is I cannot comment on why the MPS or the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have made the individual decisions that they have in that case, although I understand people's deep feelings of anxiety and outrage. What I can propose and what I will offer is that the MPS contacts you directly for a briefing about that, although clearly the intention and our ambition is to make cycling ever safer. That is the purpose of our current investments.

[...]

Jenny Jones AM: Thank you for the offer of the briefing from the MPS about the cyclist's death and I will say yes to that, but I want a bit more than that. This is the second time recently that the MPS has backed off from prosecuting a driver who has actually killed somebody. This particular driver should never have been employed in the first place. The judge actually said, "Heavens know why the lorry owners let you drive that vehicle without checking you had a valid —

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): Sorry, I could not hear that, Jenny.

Jenny Jones AM: Basically, the judge in the case said that the licensed operators were at fault. Could you please ask the MPS Commissioner next time you see him for a personal explanation of why they will not pursue that licensed operator?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): I shall, but you will understand the difficulty I have in relaying now any details that I may have to you about the thinking. It is better if they brief you directly.

Supreme Court Judgement against the UK government over breaches of EU air pollution limits

Question Number: 2015/1498 21 May 2015 Jenny Jones AM

Nicky Gavron AM: Yes. Good morning. I agree with Assembly Members Jones and Qureshi that we need to expand the ULEZ and I am glad you are now considering that but we cannot wait. There are some measures that we absolutely have to have very, very soon. It is not just cars. I want a bit of a preamble; only one question. It is not just cars that use roads. It is schoolchildren. It happens to be National Walk to School Week. All over London now, more and more children are walking to school. It is a great initiative.

However, the issue is that we have over 1,000 schools on or near polluted roads. There is new scientific evidence done in London with 800 children at 23 schools, longitudinally, that shows that just the daily walk to and from school for half an hour damages children's lungs and stunts their growth. We used to push safer routes to school and quite rightly, but now we need safe, clean-air routes to school.

On behalf of the Labour Group - and coming to the question - I put forward an amendment to your budget [2015-16], which you did not take up. It said that this year you should be piloting clean-air routes to school with a view to putting a much bigger budget line in next year. My question is: will you now commit to supporting some pilots this year for clean-air routes to school for schoolchildren in primary schools?

[...]

Nicky Gavron AM: The point is that children are walking along very polluted roads. They have to find other routes. That has to be worked out. TfL should have a role in that. Will you support clean-air routes to school?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): Yes, of course. Just going back to what I was saying, TfL --

Nicky Gavron AM: It is not doing it now. Will you do it? Will you support it?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): -- will be, I am sure, happy to give you a full briefing on what we do, but Surface Transport has a massive programme of engagement with schools. If there is something we can learn from your programme, then I would be very happy to do so, Nicky. I do not in any way wish to dismiss it.

24 hour tube service

Question Number: 2015/1259 21 May 2015 Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. Will you actually then personally take up the issue of no single staffing between outer London stations with Peter Hendy [Commissioner of Transport for London], and will you come and chat to me?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): What I undertake to do, because I really ought to talk to the experts about how they see safety in outer London stations, is that I will get back to you with an explanation of how we see the Night Tube service working to make sure that it is as safe as possible both for passengers and for our staff.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. The other issue that I have raised with you on a regular basis has been the rise in sexual assaults and harassment that have been reported on the Tube network, and obviously the running of the Night Tubes will mean that lots more people will be coming back in the early hours of the morning. You, I noticed yesterday, have started a consultation on reducing some of the night bus services in my area, for example. How will you be factoring in the risk, particularly to women, of sexual assaults and harassments that this policy may result in?

[...]

Joanne McCartney AM: OK. Mr Mayor, if you cannot tell me today, could you write to me? Have TfL talked to either the BTP or the MPS about having visible police officers, particularly in outer London, when you go live with 24-hour trains? It will have implications for their organisations as well.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): I will genuinely get back to you about the ways in which we are going to ensure that the Night Tube is safe both for passengers and for staff, and I will give you a broad and full answer.

Transport for London Budget Component Final Budget Meeting 23 Feb 2015

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM: Did you know that London is now the highest fare city in the world?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): No, it is not.

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM: Independent studies have shown that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is not true.

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM: London is the highest fare city in the world.

[...]

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM: If you will write to me and tell me which city in the world is more expensive to travel in than London --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I certainly will. There are several more expensive and you are talking total tripe.

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM: -- I will write to you will a full account of the £500 million of Londoners' money that you have wasted. Thank you, Chairman.

Transport for London Budget Component Draft Budget Meeting 28 Jan 2015

Richard Tracey AM

Richard Tracey AM: Indeed. A couple more possible savings that we suggest. You will remember that we made a proposal to fund a rollout of 1,000 GPS panic buttons to protect front line TfL staff.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. I had forgotten that.

Richard Tracey AM: Bearing in mind that the purchase of these would cost under a fifth of what workplace violence costs TfL every year, it is clearly a worthwhile investment and a sensible one.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am interested in that idea. As you will know, we now have CCTV on all buses. Crime on buses is down now by 45% since I was elected and continues to fall. When I was campaigning in 2007 and 2008, it was a thing that people were bringing up everywhere, argy-bargy on the buses. That is now well down. The Tube is now the safest metro system anywhere in Europe. We should be very proud of that. If we can drive crime down still further – we have spoken a little bit about sexual harassment; I am concerned about that – against our employees with panic buttons, I will have a look at it. What happens is you have a button about your person and you just press it.

Spending on increased road capacity

Question Number: 2014/5002 17 Dec 2014 Darren Johnson AM

Darren Johnson AM: What assessment have you done of the pollution impact of your plans?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am fairly certain that as part of the Silvertown Tunnel consultation and as part of the preparatory work there, we have indeed looked at the reduction in pollution that you will get in both Greenwich and on the north side of the river as a result of enabling the traffic to flow more smoothly and reducing congestion. You should look at that, Darren. Actually, your argument is completely on its head.

Darren Johnson AM: What assessment have you done of all of these plans?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I would be very happy to send you all such assessments, particularly of the Silvertown crossing, which is far advanced. The Inner Orbital Tunnel that you mentioned, again, you could see very, very easily how such an investment could radically reduce pollution on the Marylebone Road, on the Euston Road and on the hideous congestion that exists currently on the non-existent South Circular. You could radically reduce emissions and pollution. Therefore, these schemes should be progressed.

Night Tube (1)

Question Number: 2014/5158 17 Dec 2014 Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell (AM): I bow to my colleagues on the Transport Committee who have obviously been urging for that for some considerable time. Far be it for me to take all the benefit for this or any at all, I hasten to add.

My last point is slightly more far-reaching. Clearly, on train services the Overground is a great success and has proven to be such. In the spirit of getting people home overnight to the far reaches of West Croydon and elsewhere, could I ask that you ask TfL at some stage to look at the potential of increasing the lateness of the service of the Overground, working towards in some future point a night service on potentially the Overground?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): A night service on the Overground?

Steve O'Connell (AM): Yes. How about that?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): We will look at it. It would not have been possible with Labour's plans for the TfL budget, but it may be that we can do it. We will look at it.

Steve O'Connell (AM): Like I said --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I do not know. I do not want to make any promises at all because it may just be completely undoable. I will look at it.

Sexual Harassment on the Transport Network

Question Number: 2014/4312 10 Nov 2014 Joanne McCartney AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): As I say, we think that there has been a considerable impact from this campaign because the reports of sexual offences have gone up 38%, we think as a result of the greater awareness by officers and the staff of this issue, the training that we now give them and all the various ways in which we are engaging with stakeholder groups who are campaigning against this to raise awareness.

Joanne McCartney AM: Mr Mayor, TfL's own survey shows that 96% of interviewees say they did not report the incident and so only 4% are reporting. An awareness campaign is needed. If we see those figures go up as a result of an awareness campaign, we are going to actually support you in that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): As I say, you are being a little unfair, Joanne, in saying that nothing is going on.

Joanne McCartney AM: I am not saying that. You should do more, a proactive --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That I am willing to accept. Before I commit myself to a gigantic poster campaign, I want to go and look and see just exactly what we have.

Joanne McCartney AM: Mr Mayor, in September you told me you would do that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Let us see how we are getting on.

Joanne McCartney AM: I will put the question down again in two months' time.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): OK.

Pedestrian and cycle river crossings

Question Number: 2014/3558 13 Oct 2014 Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: What I am asking is for you to guarantee that transport money will not be pushed into this when it will not allow cyclists, for example, to go across it. What I am really trying to get your --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is a garden.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE(AM: -- support for, Mr Mayor, if you will allow me to finish questioning, is that Sustrans is planning to launch a new competition to design this bridge, which it has worked on for some time, from Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf. They are calling it the Brunel Bridge. It would really increase cycling and provide a river crossing where it really is needed and it would potentially help relieve overcrowding on the Jubilee line. Will you consider supporting this project?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Please tell them to come in as soon as possible and we will have a look at it.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: You will have a look at it?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am always interested in that type of scheme. I do agree there should be a crossing in that area. Let us see what they are proposing.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: They are looking at doing a really interesting competition, looking at getting architects on board and coming up with a really creative design. It would cost a similar amount of money. Is this the sort of project that you would also consider putting some transport money towards, as you have with the Garden Bridge?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): If it has a good business case and it works. One of the difficulties is

that in that area you have to go very high up.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It has to have a mechanism to go -- I know there are issues, but they have developed one in the past.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Is it a sort of curly wurly Fisher-Price thing where you go up --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: They are going to go out to design to try to work that out. They have had designs in the past.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That sounds brilliant.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Is this something --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Perhaps you could have a sort of catapult. Let us have a look.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: A catapult? Maybe that can be your submission to the design competition, Mr Mayor.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Have a look. Bring it. Let us have a look at it.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: You will agree to meet Sustrans to look at this proposal and to help support it?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): They can come and see Isabel [Dedring, Deputy Mayor for Transport], yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Come and see Isabel, not you. OK, that is great. Thank you very much.

Bakerloo Line Extension (1)

Question Number: 2014/3626 13 Oct 2014 James Cleverly AM

James Cleverly AM: Finally, one of the other plans that has been discussed with regard to greater connectivity for my constituency is a better connection, whether that be through heavy rail or light rail, to Bromley North. People have expressed concerns to me that the Bakerloo line extension proposal would in some way mean greater connectivity to Bromley North would be off the table. Can you confirm whether or not these projects could both happen?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): There is strong support, I can tell you, for the Bakerloo extension to run both to Hayes and to Bromley town centre. I suppose by that you mean that it might preclude running to Bromley North as well. Obviously there is a scheme to run the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), as you know, to Bromley North. I am not convinced we can necessarily do them all. I will look at it. Looking at it superficially, it looks to me if you go for Bromley town centre you are probably making it less likely that you will have DLR running to Bromley North.

Testing New Flight Paths at Heathrow Airport

Question Number: 2014/3652 13 Oct 2014 Tony Arbour AM

Tony Arbour AM: Yes. Given that it is clearly a blessing in disguise, do you find it astonishing that Howard Davies [Sir Howard Davies, Chairman, Airports Commission] has not commented on this, given the

enormous weight of objection there has been already to what it has done?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I have made my views pretty well known about Sir Howard's report so far. I do not think it will stand the test of time. This is helping to speed it on its way down the oubliette of history. It will be forgotten in a year's time.

Tony Arbour AM: Would it be appropriate for you to prompt him into commenting on this or into incorporating what has happened in his report simply by you saying there has been this great weight of evidence? I can assure you that local authorities under the flight path will be taking this line. They will be making formal objection to [Sir Howard] Davies, if not saying that he should reopen the matter and that there certainly should be an addendum to his final report saying, if you like, what has happened post his mistaken original decision in ruling out the Estuary Airport.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): To be fair to Howard, I do not know what account they are taking of what has happened on the flight paths, but it would be interesting to know. Perhaps it might be a good idea for us to get something on the record. I will be writing to him and making sure he has properly understood the impossibility of delivering the sorts of changes at Heathrow that he is still canvassing.

Cycle superhighways

Question Number: 2014/4042 13 Oct 2014 Darren Johnson AM

Richard Tracey AM: I think there is a general view that the whole network that you have been producing over the last six years is actually pretty impressive, despite this sort of carping criticism you are getting from the other parties.

However, can I pursue one other point? The network will be near to completion only when you have done far more in the outer London boroughs, the mini-Hollands and the Quietways. You have mentioned the Quietways. When are we going to have the final specific figures for the spending? I know there was a press release issued by TfL yesterday about the outer London boroughs, but we really do need to know precise figures pretty quickly from, I quess, TfL as well as Andrew Gilligan [Cycling Commissioner].

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. I should have said that the mini-Hollands are another feature of the cycling revolution and several outer London boroughs are now getting that going.

The exact sums I cannot give you off the top of my head. The £913 million you know. That is the overall package. I cannot tell you what we have pushed out of the door so far, but I would be happy to try to find that if we can.

Richard Tracey AM: I have put down a written question to you asking that and perhaps you will answer it quickly.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): OK. I will do my best to get an answer to you as fast as possible.

Richard Tracey AM: Thank you.

Chair's Question Regarding Gallow's Corner Junction

Question Number: 2014/5938 22 Oct 2014 Roger Evans AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Thank you very much, Roger. The issue is topmost in TfL. Thank you very much for raising it on behalf of your constituents. TfL is commissioning design work to see if we can improve Gallows Corner Junction and those improvements should be completed by the spring of 2016. TfL is very happy to go through in detail with you what is being proposed.

Roger Evans AM (Chairman): All right, thank you. I would not normally raise a question from the Chair, obviously

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): No, sure.

Roger Evans AM (Chairman): -- but in this situation the motion was approved cross-party at Havering, which is no small feat considering they now have six different political parties on the Council. One of the things that people tell me is that you did say you would come and have a look at the junction at some time and they have not seen you there yet. Will you reaffirm your promise to pay us a visit?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): If I possibly can. Obviously I have been there several times and I have seen it in a general way. I do not think I have done a public meeting there. I will do my best. What I can certainly do is make sure that you are involved personally, Roger, in the changes that are being proposed and that you can have those explained to you. We are considering Gallows Corner in the long run for more fundamental change and it may be that other solutions will be necessary in the long run.

Bakerloo Line extension

Question Number: 2014/2592 23 July 2014 Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: We completely support you on that, and we have lobbied alongside you on that. However, previous work on the Bakerloo line extension south has looked at at least 14 route options. I have the paperwork historically from TfL. We know previous studies have looked at both the Old Kent Road and Camberwell route options. They say they will provide huge economic benefits to those areas already earmarked for regeneration. Will you confirm that when you do consult on the Bakerloo line extension that it will serve both of these areas?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. Sorry, I will confirm I will look at it.

Regrets re River Crossings

Question Number: 2014/2758 23 July 2014 John Biggs AM

Andrew Boff AM: Yes. Perhaps it is a consensus not in this building. Could you write to me about the environmental impacts of the Silvertown tunnel that you have planned, specifically with regard to the air quality in Royal Docks?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, I would be very happy to.

Regrets re River Crossings

Question Number: 2014/2758 23 July 2014 John Biggs AM

Andrew Boff AM: With that general welcome for the crossings, could I ask you again to write to me and see whether or not you have investigated what the main reasons are for rejecting a bridge at the Woolwich ferry area --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I would be very happy to do that.

Andrew Boff AM: -- with the technical reasons for that because it is the most logical place for a bridge?

Part-time Travelcards

Question Number: 2014/2416 2 July 2014 Valerie Shawcross AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I am sure this part-time Travelcard is going to claim as many creators as the bike hire scheme seems to have, but some of us have had it in our manifesto for the last few elections, so we have it on record.

I welcome the fact that you are doing lots of detailed work on this. Could I urge you, rather than just announcing this as part of your fares package - which I hope will be a lot earlier than 3 December, which it was last year - that you consider doing a specific campaign around this to promote the benefits not just for people who work part-time, but also for those who want to cycle or perhaps walk to work one or two days a week?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am happy to look at that.

TfL Buses hospitalizing Londoners

Question Number: 2014/2393 2 July 2014 Richard Tracey AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): We have, as I have tried to point out just now, some pretty good processes in hand to ensure that bus drivers do have the training that they need. This is against a background of continuing reductions in the numbers of people killed or seriously injured. If there is some advantage in rewriting a contract, I am prepared to look at it, Darren.

Darren Johnson AM: Thank you. You will look at it?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will look at it. I will make no further commitment than that.

TfL Buses hospitalizing Londoners

Question Number: 2014/2393 2 July 2014 Richard Tracey AM

Richard Tracey AM: I am sure you must agree that it would be very helpful to know where the particular hot spots in London are exactly so that action could be taken at those hot spots.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Victoria [Borwick] has done some excellent work on Oxford Street and, as I recall, the risks that pedestrians run in Oxford Street.

Richard Tracey AM: That is clearly one hot spot.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): The hot spots are pretty well known to us. If I can supply you with any

detailed information, I would be more than happy to do that.

Fit For the Future

Question Number: 2014/1927 11 June 2014 Navin Shah AM

Navin Shah AM: Mr Mayor, the equality impact assessment for Fit for the Future quite rightly commits to an extensive programme of engaging with key stakeholders, which of course I very much welcome, but having met a number of disability groups within this building a couple of weeks ago, it would appear that organisations representing deaf people have not yet been consulted. Obviously I cannot expect you to be aware of that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I was not aware of that. I will find out about it and we will see.

Policing and Crime

Public order police officers and Body-worn video cameras

Question Number: 2015/1482 21 May 2015 Roger Evans AM

Andrew Dismore AM: On the issue of public order, I wrote to you yesterday about the plans of anti-Semitic and far-right groups to hold a rally in Golders Green in January specifically aimed against the Jewish community. It is clearly very provocative and threatening in the wake of what happened in Paris and Copenhagen and the significant rise in anti-Semitic attacks in London over the last year. There has to be a real risk of disorder and violence against Jewish community businesses and the local community. What will you do to try to deal with this, and in particular to try to stop the rally taking place?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): Thank you for writing to me and thank you for taking it up. I will get on to it immediately and we will see what we can do. As you know, we do not generally like to ban public demonstrations or rallies except where absolutely necessary, though in the case of inciting anti-Semitic hatred or violence, that is plainly intolerable in our city, and we will see whether it meets those criteria.

Cuts to Policing

Question Number: 2015/0912 25 Mar 2015 Joanne McCartney AM

Andrew Dismore AM: The last question was this. What percentage of burglaries in Barnet resulted in a criminal prosecution last year?

[...]

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): The answer is that I am very happy to write to you, Andrew, with the detail and the breakdown of criminal prosecutions of burglaries in Barnet. However, overall crime in Barnet, as indeed crime in London, has come down very substantially not just over the last four years but over the last seven years and you —

Andrew Dismore AM: That is not what your figures show.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): No, that is not true.

MOPAC Budget Component

Final Budget Meeting 23 Feb 2015 Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: We asked you to look at having a victims' champion at MOPAC and to look at

having an independent advocacy pilot for those with learning disabilities and mental health issues.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. I am interested in this kind of thing.

Joanne McCartney AM: Would you write to me about this, Mr Mayor?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I certainly will write to you, Joanne.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you.

MOPAC Budget Component

Draft Budget Meeting 28 Jan 2015 Kit Malthouse AM

Kit Malthouse AM: Is there any chance you could ask the Commissioner to increase capacity on the Dangerous Dogs Unit?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will certainly look. We have this Dangerous Dogs Unit which we set up, as you know, and I totally agree with you about the air of menace and the intimidation that one of those dogs can bring with it. I do not like it. I want them properly controlled. I think the difficulty is that one man's dangerous dog is another man's beloved old pooch, and that is the problem. We had that problem, if you remember, with the original dangerous dogs legislation in the 1980s.

Kit Malthouse AM: It is quite clear. There are illegal breeds of dog which are still openly paraded on the streets of London with no enforcement. If someone was wandering around with a revolver, the police would be there like a shot, but the fact that this thing is a dog does not seem to attract the same level of importance, even though it is not nearly as frightening.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): When I refer to a dangerous dog being a beloved old pooch, some of the dogs that have been involved in attacks, as far as I understand it, are not illegal breeds. It is very difficult to produce perfectly drafted legislation on this. I will certainly make enquiries, Kit --

Kit Malthouse AM: Thanks.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): -- about whether the MPS feels that it could do more about dangerous dogs and weapon dogs.

Kit Malthouse AM: That would be very kind. Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): They are a scourge.

Local Policing - Resources and Visibility

Question Number: 2014/3658 13 Oct 2014 Joanne McCartney AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): The Local Policing Model (LPM) is barely a year old and we are still drawing conclusions about its operation. However, just so you know, we are doing a review and, as soon as we have more to give you about the changes that we think are necessary, we will of course share them.

The objective is, as you know, to get more officers into neighbourhood teams and to get more visibility. I

know you have a concern about visibility in some areas and, where we can address those, we will.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. Mr Mayor, we were told by the Deputy Commissioner at our last Police and Crime Committee that the Metropolitan Police Service's review into the LPM was going to the management board last Tuesday and that it would be sent straight away the following day to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). Have you actually seen that?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I have not seen it, I am sorry to say, but as soon as we have something to give you, we shall.

Local Policing - Resources and Visibility

Question Number: 2014/3658 13 Oct 2014 Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: Hold on. I have already quoted at the last meeting to you that residents associations are complaining that their policing teams do not report back to them anymore and that they often cancel attendance at very short notice.

I have tried to find out by putting Mayor's Questions to you how many officers I have in my wards who are dedicated and how many are in this flexible number that can move around. You have been unable to give that to me, saying that the Metropolitan Police Service does not hold that data centrally. It begs the question to me how you can know what is going on and monitor it if the Metropolitan Police Service is not actually providing that --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Presumably, you have raised it with the Borough Commander, have you?

Joanne McCartney AM: Yes, but I am asking --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): What has he told you?

Joanne McCartney AM: Hold on. I am asking across London and I am told that the Metropolitan Police Service does not hold it centrally. How can they monitor and how can you then monitor them and have oversight? Will you look into that, Mr Mayor? It seems to be a gap in the data collection.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am interested by what you say. All I can say is that in the figures I have - and I have figures for Enfield and Haringey - for the officers appointed to neighbourhoods, for instance, in Enfield there will be by next year 144 compared to 61 in 2011. That is an increase of 136%.

Joanne McCartney AM: You are talking about neighbourhoods as a whole. Mr Mayor, I think you are missing the point.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): In Haringey, there will be an increase from 55 to 144 and that is a 162% increase. What we are trying to do is to get officers out on the streets.

Joanne McCartney AM: Mr Mayor, I think you are missing the point. We have this number of officers, but the Metropolitan Police Service does not hold data centrally as to how many of them are dedicated to wards and how many of them are in a flexible model. We know that they are abstracted. I want that data --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Of course, one of the things that we have been very clear on is that you have to give Borough Commanders some flexibility as to how they run their SNTs. That is the way to bring down crime. I repeat what I said: crime is coming down very substantially. The commitment that we have made is that there will be one PC and one PCSO in every ward.

I am very happy, obviously, to find out from your Borough Commanders - and I am sure you can do it yourself, but I am very happy to do it on your behalf - the composition of the SNTs in your constituency.

Child Sexual Abuse

Question Number: 2014/3662 13 Oct 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Andrew Boff AM: Following on from that, Mr Mayor, can I recommend most strongly that you do look at the initiative being taken by three London boroughs - Croydon, Southwark and Lambeth - with regard to the information-sharing over existing Social Services casework that they have with a view to identifying those victims of trafficking? Often those victims of trafficking cannot really be seen unless you have been trained to see that. Croydon, particularly, has developed some ground-breaking training programmes which need to be distributed to the rest of London, quite frankly, in order to inform professionals - and indeed hotels may come into this as well - of the very clear signs that there are of victims of trafficking, which obviously includes child sexual abuse. If you can take that forward --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will make sure that is built into the MOPAC consideration.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you very much.

Rise of Muslim Hate Crime in London

Question Number: 2014/3663 13 Oct 2014 Murad Qureshi AM

Murad Qureshi AM: Yes, that is true. There are two aspects. No doubt a lot of it is aimed at women. Perpetrators by-and-large are men and it is being targeted at visible Muslim women. I just want to be sure you are aware of that. If you do not have the time to respond now, if you could write to me addressing that issue, it would be very useful.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That is interesting. That is not part of the details I have about that. I am not aware of that phenomenon. I will dig into it and see what information we can provide.

Rise of Muslim Hate Crime in London

Question Number: 2014/3663 13 Oct 2014 Murad Qureshi AM

Murad Qureshi AM: Thank you. The other aspect is that I suspect - and this has been backed up by academic research - that there is a fair amount of under-reporting, like with other types of crime, sexual or whatever. There has been a recent study done by Teesside University which showed clearly there were about 700-odd incidents over a nine-month period between 2013 and 2014. They concluded that under-reporting remains a challenge in analysing the crime data, particularly for hate crime.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): In London?

Murad Qureshi AM: Again, I suspect you are not going to be able to respond, but if you could ask the Commissioner or MOPAC to meet me or to write to me in order to outline their course of action, I would be

most grateful.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will certainly do that. You mentioned the Edgware Road. This year we saw a 30% decrease in Islamophobic offending in the Edgware Road because we led a specific operation there.

One of the interesting things actually has been that we thought there might be a spike in this type of Islamophobic incident following the 'Jihadi John' videos and that kind of thing. Actually, that did not happen. It is wonderful that actually people are making the distinction between Islam and this foul perversion of Islam that is publicised by terrorists.

Murad Qureshi AM: Thank you.

Counter-Terrorism

Question Number: 2014/3198 17 September 2014 Joanne McCartney AM

John Biggs AM: I opposed the cuts in PREVENT funding. Perhaps, as Mayor, it is something for you to do, to go away and look at whether there are adequate resources for this. It is not just about money, but whether we are having collective leadership on this issue. We need to look at funding the community interventions and the positive organisations and applauding the positive actions. For example, the fact that many mosques are uniting in prayer this week in hoping that the current hostage under threat is saved.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I agree. I share very much what you have just said, John. It is not always a question of funding. Some boroughs --

John Biggs AM: It might be.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): -- with the same funding have done a very good job.

John Biggs AM: It was a massive cut in funding.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): There has been, but as people will remember some of that funding was not going in an ideal direction. What we want to make sure is that what funding there is, goes to people who are really making a difference. As I said, what we are trying to do is through the boroughs, chief executives and council leaders to get a much clearer fix on what works and to bring everybody up to the standard of the best.

John Biggs AM: You will report back to us on that?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes.

Swift and Certain Sanctions

Question Number: 2014/2678 23 July 2014 Tony Arbour AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): On the swift and sure approach, generally for people in breach of their non-custodial sentences in some way, then what you want is to see them locked up swiftly and certainly for a short sharp shock?

Tony Arbour AM: Yes, exactly right.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): We will look at that. It is not something I have direct power to implement, however, with the Mayor's London Crime Reduction Board, we will certainly have a look at it.

Local Policing Model

Question Number: 2014/2764 23 July 2014 Joanne McCartney AM

Richard Tracey AM: From your great office you could ask MOPAC and the MPS to investigate what is happening in Cheshire [re interactive police kiosks]?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will investigate.

Local Policing Model

Question Number: 2014/2764 23 July 2014 Joanne McCartney AM

Joanne McCartney AM: One final thing I would like to ask you about is the shift system. I am hearing from my local officers that actually they are exhausted. Rest days are cancelled. It is eroding their morale and goodwill. Can I ask you if you would commit to looking at the shift system because it needs a significant overhaul? The new shift system is not working. I understand the Commissioner's desire to get a minimum number during the night, but in some boroughs there is no nightlife, yet there has to be a minimum number of officers there and others are having to have rest days cancelled. It is playing havoc with their lives at the moment.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I understand. On that, if you supply some details of the specific concerns --

Joanne McCartney AM: I will.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): -- I would be very happy to look into that.

Local Policing Model

Question Number: 2014/2764 23 July 2014 Joanne McCartney AM

Andrew Dismore AM: If not, what are you going to do to give us more police officers so they can make your targets?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will certainly study the length of time taken to answer these emergency calls in Barnet to see whether there is a particular problem in Barnet.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes, there are just not enough policemen.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): The times that you have mentioned are unacceptable and I will undertake to write to the Member to try to give him a full answer as to what we think is going on in the answering of emergency calls in Barnet.

Electronic tagging

Question Number: 2014/2406 2 July 2014 Tony Arbour AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): All right. What you want us to look at is the police doing the tagging and thereby doing it more cheaply than contracting it out?

Tony Arbour AM: Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I think that is the gist. I am very happy to look at that.

Police spying on their critics

Question Number: 2014/2342 2 July 2014 Jenny Jones AM

Jenny Jones AM: All right. If I send you a list of the things that I think ought to be public knowledge, you can ask them the questions and get the answers.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): No problems.

Safeguarding children

Question Number: 2014/2300 2 July 2014 Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: In meeting with the Congress of all the boroughs, can you ask them to make themselves familiar with the practical steps as a result of my report, *Shadow City*, that are taking place amongst three London boroughs - Southwark, Lambeth and Croydon. These seek to look at the social work caseload of those three boroughs and share information between each other with a mind to identifying human trafficking, including sexual exploitation. This is not just in order to protect those people but to provide intelligence to the police so they can identify the perpetrators. I would ask you to spread that message when you are amongst borough leaders of these practical steps being taken in these boroughs to end the scourge of human trafficking in London.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, certainly.

Safeguarding children

Question Number: 2014/2300 2 July 2014 Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is acknowledged that even after the Rochdale and Oxfordshire scandals, thousands of children are still at risk of child sexual exploitation by gangs and groups and that runaways, as you have mentioned, are especially vulnerable. The Office of the Children's Commissioner identified 16,500 children nationally at risk. In April I produced a report that showed in 2012 and 2013 around 930 looked-after children went missing from the care of London boroughs, so I really think this is a serious and growing problem that needs to be addressed.

I wonder if you will ask the London boroughs to take action on this important issue at your next Congress of Leaders meeting.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, I will certainly raise it with councils and they are primarily responsible for this issue.

Safeguarding children

Question Number: 2014/2300 2 July 2014 Caroline Pidgeon AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Will you commit to commissioning a specific piece of work led by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) with the London Safeguarding Children Board, of which MOPAC is a member, to analyse and develop a real picture of the problem in London and what needs to be done?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, I am very happy to do that.

Planning and Housing

Outer London small business premises

Question Number: 2015/1258 21 May 2015 Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: That is very good to hear. There is a saving grace - you know that, do you not - because this policy is due to expire in 2016. It is a three-year policy. Unfortunately, the Government came in last summer with a new consultation, saying that they wanted to turn over the CAZ exemption and they wanted to make permanent office permitted development right across the country, and of course including the whole of London. You are now in a better position even than you were before: you are now in Government you are a member of the Government; you are in the political Cabinet. You have a great opportunity, because that has not been brought forward. That consultation has not been answered.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): I will look at it.

Nicky Gavron AM: Wait a minute. It has not been brought forward, and we are all very concerned that it will be. It is going to be absolutely catastrophic for London's economy if this goes through, and you absolutely have to make sure that it is ruled out in London, that we do not have permitted development from office to residential. Will you end it? Will you fight to end it?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): I will see what I can do. I will study the implications for outer London in more detail. I am concerned about some of the reports I am getting from outer London town centres, and I will see what I can do. I will get back to you on that, Nicky.

Carlton Tavern

Question Number: 2015/1486 21 May 2015 Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: We need to congratulate Westminster Council and the Members across both parties to support that enforcement action in giving a particularly bloody nose to the developer. Particularly I know Tom [Tom Copley AM] and myself are very keen to protect pubs. I know Tom has a written question in to you. I have probably no doubt that the developer may try to appeal against this enforcement, and my first point to you is could you try to ensure that any support you can give, through this building, in support of Westminster Council in rebuffing any potential appeal, will be made properly available?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): Yes.

Steve O'Connell AM: In other words, would you be able to support Westminster Council in any given way?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): Absolutely. I will support them morally and intellectually. They are completely right and we should all agree to make use of this pub ourselves in order to keep it going.

Standing up for London's employment spaces

Question Number: 2014/3201 17 Sept 2014 Nicky Gavron AM

Andrew Dismore AM: No, the issue for Barnet, which they have washed their hands of, is relocating the offices that are being displaced. The point about it is Barnet has no power to object, even if it wanted to. It has no power to object and the same applies for most of London. It seems to me you need to get yourself properly briefed on this issue, Mr Mayor. The impact is horrendous throughout London. In Camden we have also lost 700 jobs and another office block in Camden Town. It is similar. Start-up businesses are all thrown out at the drop of a hat.

Nicky Gavron AM: You are now going to lose all the warehouses.

Andrew Dismore AM: You need to get to grips with this.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will be very happy to send you the response to the Government's consultation when we send it.

Standing up for London's employment spaces

Question Number: 2014/3201 17 Sept 2014 Nicky Gavron AM

Roger Evans AM (Chairman): Thank you. Just before we leave this matter, it does appear there is crossparty fairly strong opposition to these proposals here. Would it help you, Mr Mayor, if as Chairman of the Assembly I co-sign any representations you make to the Government with, of course, the agreement of Members of the Assembly?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am sure that would add immeasurably to the weight of the letter and the seismic impact that it would have in Whitehall. Yes, that would be good.

Standing up for London's employment spaces

Question Number: 2014/3201 17 Sept 2014 Nicky Gavron AM

Nicky Gavron AM: So far, so good. Just to be clear, are you then committing to saying to the Government that it should not allow the loss of employment space without it going through the planning system, or are you just picking and choosing amongst the different employment spaces?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will send you the text of the letter when we have it, but I believe we are going to be objecting actually to the principle of allowing too much of this stuff to be released.

Hackbridge Regeneration Scheme (3)

Question Number: 2014/3646 13 Oct 2014 Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: OK. Also may I ask you - because what is concerning me is that again this is meal money and taxpayers' money that actually has been poorly and badly spent - to perhaps ask your Deputy Mayor to take a direct interest in this because it is a gross municipal incompetence in spending funds? I take your point and I know it is for me and others to take this up with Sutton Council.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is.

Steve O'Connell AM: I know residents are, but it actually is your money that is being spent and I would ask you indeed to ask your Deputy Mayor to take this up with that particular council. To try to get to the bottom of what has gone wrong on the ground, why that money has been misspent and why we now have a much more dangerous scheme than we had in the past, if I could ask for your commitment around that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. Obviously I am not certain that my team altogether agrees with your characterisation of the effects of the scheme, but I am happy to take your points on board and to see what improvements we can make.

Steve O'Connell AM: My comments are reflecting the 1,000 local people that have responded to the survey. They are not my comments; they are those of the local constituents. I will leave it at that, Chair.

Street Based Developments

Question Number: 2014/2654 23 July 2014 Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you. That was a good summary of why a street-based development may sometimes not be suitable. Let us talk about specifics. Would you be supportive of developers having to provide a reason in their application why a street-based development is not possible in that particular instance?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. That is something --

Andrew Boff AM: Yes, that is another yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): What they tend to do is explain why the PTAL ratio - or whatever it happens to be - necessitates a certain approach.

Street Based Developments

Question Number: 2014/2654 23 July 2014 Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: I suppose you are acquainted with my view on that. There are some requirements in the London Plan that actually make it quite difficult to provide street-based developments. Would you support a review of the London Plan to see what gets in the way of providing street-based development?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. One of the things people need to focus on here is that we do want street-based.

Andrew Boff AM: He said yes.

Swiss Cottage Avenue Road Development

Question Number: 2014/2655 23 July 2014 Andrew Boff AM

Andrew Boff AM: Would you, Mr Mayor, ask for an update on the stage 1 report that was received by Camden with regard to this application, on the basis that the language within that stage 1 report inferred that a tall building was preferable? That is not the case and I know the planners would like to amend that. Would you like to ask for that update as soon as possible?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I would.

London Rental Standard

Question Number: 2014/2762 23 July 2014 Andrew Dismore AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Do you think it is time for the Government to rethink this and not allow evictions of long-established businesses but only perhaps convert empty office blocks? More importantly, what are you going to do for these people who are about to be thrown out of their livelihoods? How can you help them?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will certainly study the case that you mention.

Empty homes

Question Number: 2014/2343 11 June 2014 Darren Johnson AM

Darren Johnson AM: On the numbers we need to be doing more, so I would like you to go away and look at the bureaucracy and the complex procedures that are in place that seem to be unnecessarily delaying. This is not me saying this. This is housing partners complaining about this. The process could be a lot simpler and you could more speedily bring empty properties back into use by simplifying the bureaucracy.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): We will have a look at it.

Betting Shops

Question Number: 2014/1901 2 July 2014 Steve O'Connell AM

Steve O'Connell AM: Again, Mr Mayor, I will ask you - and I think you did comment earlier - would you consider amending the next draft of the London Plan for further alterations to pave the way for planning guidance to be introduced once the change to planning law has come in to effect?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, as far as I know the FALP already allows for this. I will check, certainly.

Private Rented Sector

Question Number: 2014/1919 11 June 2014 Tom Copley AM

Andrew Dismore AM: Well, would it also surprise you to know the identity of the landlord? The landlord I describe is none other than the recently elected Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Hugh Raynor, Conservative councillor, and the pre-signed witness was Conservative Councillor John Hart. As you have agreed to look into this, will you raise these issues with him direct as one of your party colleagues?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am very happy to do so. I hope very much, Andrew, and it would be very unlike you of course to have calumnied in any way the reputation of any Conservative colleague of yours, I cannot believe that you would be so underhand as to introduce any suspicion about the conduct of a Conservative member.

Private Rented Sector

Question Number: 2014/1919 11 June 2014 Tom Copley AM

Tom Copley AM: Mr Mayor, you will be eating your words in a moment. Before I move on the very subject of which the Mayor has just spoken, just to say that Shelter have looked into the issue of lettings agency fees where they have been banned in Scotland and 60% of lettings agency managers said the ban had no impact on their business and 17% said the change was positive for their business. Therefore, I hope you will look at the

issue of banning lettings agent fees in more detail.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, I will look into it. It is not something that --

Tom Copley AM: Make sure you do because I will raise it with you again and if you then say to me, "I will have to go back and look at it." I expect you to have an answer.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Of course I will. I am very diligent in addressing all the things you raise, Tom. You did not ask specifically about this. Had you done so, I would of course have been able to give you an answer immediately. I will give you an answer later. I am very happy to give you an answer on rent controls, which is your normal quack medicine.

Safe Houses for London

Question Number: 2014/1879 11 June 2014 Andrew Boff AM

Gareth Bacon AM: That is precisely what he is asking for your support for, Mr Mayor. He is very keen. The subject you picked up about undermining home life, etc, is covered in the report, and there would be appropriate safeguards with local authorities and the local police and such like. It would not be a question that this is a bolt hole for someone to go to, to sort of permanently evade their family or anything like that. It is much more of a reassurance method.

What Andrew is asking for in the report is that you would be prepared to commit a small amount of funding, almost as pump-priming, to start it as a pilot trial in a few small ward-sized areas, probably five of them around London. I appreciate from your comments at the moment that you are open to the idea of a pilot taking place. Would you be prepared to commit to meet with Andrew to discuss this in more detail?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Always happy to meet the great man.

Economic and Business Policy

Pay

Question Number: 2014/2767 23 July 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: How can people who have no money afford to do these traineeships if they are not

being paid?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will look at the evidence --

Fiona Twycross AM: I will send you the information and I will expect a full reply.

Labour market inequality

Question Number: 2014/2415 2 July 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: Do you have a current estimate for the number of workers in London currently employed on zero-hours contracts?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I would be very happy to get you any statistics we have on that.

Labour market inequality

Question Number: 2014/2415 2 July 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Are you saying the Ford issue is now historic?

Fiona Twycross AM: It was 40-odd years ago that they fought for equal pay, so in that sense, yes, it is a historic campaign. What people are campaigning for now is to reduce the growing income gap between men and women, which is an issue that is quite shameful, not just here in London but across the country. What is your Enterprise Panel doing specifically on pay for women in London?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Sorry, I misunderstood you just now. I thought there was some particular case of inequality in pay that you wished to highlight.

Fiona Twycross AM: It was 40 years ago. It is still happening now.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That would be, frankly, the most useful way forward. What we need to do is to be quite forensic about this and to isolate cases of manifest injustice and to make a fuss about them. I am more than happy to join you, Fiona. You mentioned some evidence from *Grazia* or another publication. If there is some substance there and if there are some cases in London where we can isolate discrimination against women in the workforce, then I am more than happy to do that.

Labour market inequality

Question Number: 2014/2415 2 July 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: -- but there are also issues around productivity and skills. If you have people who are only working 10 or 15 hours a week, not only are they not able to access the benefits that they would be entitled to if they were working a bit more, but they are basically not economically productive for those hours.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I understand that completely. Can I make a proposal, Fiona, on these concerns about how zero-hours contracts may be operating? I propose that you take it up with Kit [Malthouse, Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise] and we have a look at what we can do through the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) to give further advice about this.

Labour market inequality

Question Number: 2014/2415 2 July 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: Most significantly, there is going to be a big impact on their future pensions. If you have somebody within the pay grade 2 band, who is earning about £40,000 a year and who is in their early 50s, under the new arrangements that TfL is seeking to impose, they are going to take something like a 25% hit to their pension prospects. Instead of retiring at 65 on a pension of, say, £31,000, they are going to be retiring on a pension of £24,000.

Are you saying to me and is TfL's management saying to us that they believe the bulk of TfL staff are currently overpaid and that their pensions are too large? It is a huge hit for a workforce to take.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will just point out that a pension of £24,000 represents more than the average wage in this country, so it is not a bad pension to have, even if it is subject to the reduction that you describe.

We will, of course, look at everything we can and look at the conditions of employment of everybody at TfL,

but it is reasonable and Londoners would expect there to be some element of performance-related pay.

Labour market inequality

Question Number: 2014/2415 2 July 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I would be. Sorry, I think we are talking at slightly cross-purposes and that is my fault. There is the general problem of London creating huge numbers of jobs which are not going to Londoners and then there is the specific problem you have hit on, Jennette. What about black graduates who have plenty of ideas and plenty of ambition who somehow are not getting the jobs they would like? That is a knotty problem --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair): Can you commit to doing something?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): -- and I would be very happy to see what I can do to help and to work with you to try to unknot it.

Labour market inequality

Question Number: 2014/2415 2 July 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Joanne McCartney AM: The reason for raising those 34 is that the tribunal found that in Ms Howard's case there was a practice of redacting and taking out, in effect falsifying an internal document, because that is what it amounts to. If someone has found there has been discrimination and they are told to take it out, in my mind, it is falsifying a document.

If there are 34 other cases that have gone to a tribunal, it is incumbent upon you to review those cases and to check that in those 34 cases the same practice did not go on as well. Will you commit to do that today?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, certainly.

Health and Public Services

Mayor of London Budget Component

Question Number: 2015/0109 21 Jan 2015 Fiona Twycross AM

Fiona Twycross AM: In one case I heard recently of a delay of over a year for somebody to get their Personal Independence Payment. If this is the case, we have a real issue with people actually having access to the money they are entitled to.

I wondered on the specific point what more you would do to lobby the Government to make sure that it is running the benefit system effectively to make sure it does not let down Londoners who are down on their luck, and whether you would personally write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to highlight concerns raised by the report, raised by the all-party investigation and raised by Oxfam and the Child Poverty Action Group on how the benefits system is operating and the impact it has on Londoners.

[...]

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): What I would need to do is to work in concert with an MP on particular cases to help draw the issue to the attention of the Secretary of State. I am more than happy to do so. I am just trying to draft the letter in my head. I would need to have specific cases that I would --

Fiona Twycross AM: We can find you plenty of specific cases.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That would be kind. That is what I am really asking for.

Fiona Twycross AM: I will find an MP who will come forward with dozens of cases that you can raise.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I would be more than happy to support in that case, but we need to have a bit of chapter and verse. That is all I am saying.

Fiona Twycross AM: Yes, thank you.

Cardiff Model

Question Number: 2014/3576 13 Oct 2014 Caroline Pidgeon AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): We have not yet had responses from all the Trusts that we wrote to. Caroline, I think you have a copy of the letter I wrote anyway.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I have seen that, yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is fairly straightforward. It makes the point that it would be a huge benefit to London if we had more data about what is happening in the A&Es and what kinds of injuries they are treating. When we get all those responses back, obviously we will share them with you.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Lovely. You may well have to have a roundtable to really thrash this out because this has been going on for so long. I welcome your support and commitment to achieving this, which will help reduce violent crime in London.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Thank you.

Food poverty and malnutrition

Question Number: 2014/3204 17 September 2014 Fiona Twycross AM

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I have been trying to get the data on rickets. I know that Victoria [Victoria Borwick AM, Deputy Mayor] has been looking at this and I do not have specific data on rickets here today. What I can tell you is that we are obviously aware of the problems that Londoners who are suffering from food poverty are facing; and we supporting all sorts of schemes, including the Healthy Start programme to get people on low incomes vouchers for fruit and milk and so forth. 50% of London schools have signed up for the Healthy Schools London programme to make sure that they have good food at school. Then I draw your attention to all the other measures that we are putting in place, not least what Rosie Boycott [Chair, London Food] is doing through the Capital Growth Initiative to support the growing of food in London, and then all the other things to support people on low incomes generally. There is no question that there is a problem, but the actual numbers of those admitted for malnutrition fell by 4% this year.

Fiona Twycross AM: OK. I would welcome a copy of those figures because that is at variance with the national trend.

Healthy Work Places

Question Number: 2014/2417 2 July 2014 Onkar Sahota AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Mr Mayor, the London Healthy Workplace Charter has been in place for two years now and so far only 31 organisations have signed up. This means that only some 100,000 people are quaranteed healthy working environments out of nearly four million people working in London.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): No, 5.43 million. We have 5.43 million jobs now.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: The point I am trying to make is that the majority of these people are not covered by the Healthy Workplace Charter. Can you tell me whether the MPS and the Fire Brigade are part of this or not?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I cannot give you that information. I am sorry. I will give you all --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: My information is they are not. Perhaps you will use your good offices to make sure that all the organisations that come under the mayoralty and the London Assembly are signing up to this.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Absolutely. I see no reason why they should not. I will get you some details on that.

Environment

Supreme Court Judgement against the UK government over breaches of EU air pollution limits

Question Number: 2015/1498 21 May 2015 Jenny Jones AM

Nicky Gavron AM: Yes. Good morning. I agree with Assembly Members Jones and Qureshi that we need to expand the ULEZ and I am glad you are now considering that but we cannot wait. There are some measures that we absolutely have to have very, very soon. It is not just cars. I want a bit of a preamble; only one question. It is not just cars that use roads. It is schoolchildren. It happens to be National Walk to School Week. All over London now, more and more children are walking to school. It is a great initiative.

However, the issue is that we have over 1,000 schools on or near polluted roads. There is new scientific evidence done in London with 800 children at 23 schools, longitudinally, that shows that just the daily walk to and from school for half an hour damages children's lungs and stunts their growth. We used to push safer routes to school and quite rightly, but now we need safe, clean-air routes to school.

On behalf of the Labour Group - and coming to the question - I put forward an amendment to your budget [2015-16], which you did not take up. It said that this year you should be piloting clean-air routes to school with a view to putting a much bigger budget line in next year. My question is: will you now commit to supporting some pilots this year for clean-air routes to school for schoolchildren in primary schools?

[...]

Nicky Gavron AM: The point is that children are walking along very polluted roads. They have to find other routes. That has to be worked out. TfL should have a role in that. Will you support clean-air routes to school?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): Yes, of course. Just going back to what I was saying, TfL -

Nicky Gavron AM: It is not doing it now. Will you do it? Will you support it?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London): — will be, I am sure, happy to give you a full briefing on what we do, but Surface Transport has a massive programme of engagement with schools. If there is something we can learn from your programme, then I would be very happy to do so, Nicky. I do not in any way wish to dismiss it.

Solar Energy

Question Number: 2014/2684 23 July 2014 Jenny Jones AM

Jenny Jones AM: The cost of the technology has fallen by 50% since 2011. We are talking about a different situation than was happening even two or three years ago. You have a team here who could look at this and who could think about it. For example, I went to visit a school in Islington that gains 25% of its electricity needs from solar panels. Will you look at this --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I will, yes.

Jenny Jones AM: -- for schools and businesses and so on, because it is actually a way of improving the wellbeing of Londoners?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Sure.

Solar Energy

Question Number: 2014/2684 23 July 2014 Jenny Jones AM

Jenny Jones AM: What I am really concerned about is whether you will consider my recommendations because they are slightly different from yours. I am very interested in what you are doing and I would love to read about it in a newspaper but I do not have much time, so will you consider my recommendations?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am always happy, yes, of course, to consider your recommendations, Jenny.

Greater London Authority and Functional Bodies

Fire prevention in recycling facilities

Question Number: 2014/2385 2 July 2014 James Cleverly AM

James Cleverly AM: I need to be very careful not to imply that there is anything more going on than we can prove. However, the simple truth of the matter is that with scrap – particularly scrap metal – prices being as high as they are, a maximum fine of £1,000 can very easily be factored into the ongoing running costs of an operation. I will work this through the Fire Authority, but my personal view is that whilst the maximum fine is only £1,000, it provides no disincentive to unprofessional and dangerous behaviour by some of the rogue operators in this sector.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am very happy to support you in that.