

**THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY
ETHICAL STANDARDS REGIME**

MONITORING OFFICER DECISION NOTICE

GLA Case Reference: April 01/2022

Decision

That there **has been a breach** by Assembly Member Sem Moema of paragraph 6 (a), (b) and (c) of the Greater London Authority's ("GLA") Code of Conduct for GLA Members¹.

Complaint

1. On 8 April 2022, I received a complaint which alleged that Assembly Member ("AM") Sem Moema had breached the GLA's Code of Conduct for GLA Members ("the Code"). The Complaint concerns a newsletter written by Ms Moema which was sent on 1 April 2022 ("the Newsletter").
2. The Newsletter contained a number of stories concerning Ms Moema's activity as an AM within her Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest constituency and across London more broadly, reflecting back over the previous month. The Newsletter is in Appendix A.
3. The full Complaint reads as follows:

"I would like to lodge an official complaint against Sem Moema AM.

Please see attached an email [see Appendix A] sent out from Sem's @london.gov.uk address on the 1st April which is clearly a piece of political literature but includes the @london.go[v].uk address throughout as well. It also is filled with Assembly business and photos which it is not appropriate to share in this form during the regulated period (as I understand it).

...

I believe an formal resolution should be reached advising Sem that she has breached the code of conduct and warning her against improper use of GLA resources in future with an apology for doing so.

I think it is important for the integrity of the GLA and in terms of fairness that this is investigated."

¹ [GLA Code of Conduct](#)

4. The Complainant alleges that this behaviour constitutes a breach of the following paragraphs of the Code:

“6. You...

- (a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and*
- (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority—*
 - i. act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements;*
 - ii. ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and*
- (c) must have regard to any Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.”*

Procedure

5. The approved procedure under which complaints are to be considered about a GLA Member’s conduct is set out in the Guidance on Making a Complaint About a GLA Member’s Conduct (“the Complaints Guidance”) which can be found online².
6. I have considered the Complaint in accordance with the Complaints Guidance.

Informal Resolution

7. I decided that the Complaint was not suitable for informal resolution under stage 2 of the Complaints Guidance having taken into account:
 - the Code
 - the Complaints Guidance
 - the letter of Complaint (see paragraph 3 above)
 - the subsequent correspondence from AM Moema responding to the Complaint.
8. The complainant makes clear that they believe AM Moema should apologise for her alleged conduct. The Complaints Guidance refers to an apology as being one way of resolving matters informally without the need for a formal investigation.
9. In response to my letter of 14 April 2022 to AM Moema notifying her of the complaint and seeking her comments on the complaint as well as whether the complaint is suitable for

² [The Complaints Guidance](#)

informal resolution, AM Moema apologised for her actions. However, I decided that informal resolution was not appropriate given the seriousness of the matter which concerned the appropriate use of the GLA’s resources in a period of heightened sensitivity in the run up to the local elections. I also noted that Ms Moema was standing as a candidate in these local elections in the London Borough of Hackney.

10. As such, I decided to carry out an initial assessment of the Complaint in accordance with Stage 3 of the Complaints Guidance. I have taken into account all of the circumstances, the need for proportionality when dealing with complaints, the wider public interest and the costs associated with investigations. On balance and for the same reasons noted in paragraph 9 above, I decided to carry out an investigation in accordance with Stage 4 of the Complaints Guidance.

Chronology of investigation

11. The chronology of the investigation is set out below:

8 April	Complaint received. I acknowledged receipt.
14 April	I wrote to AM Moema about the complaint
19 April	I wrote to the Complainant to advise them I had written to AM Moema and would be in touch regarding next steps once I had received AM Moema’s response
4 May	AM Moema responded to me
12 May	I wrote to AM Moema to advise that I had completed my initial assessment of the complaint and would be conducting an investigation into this matter
12 May	I wrote to the complainant to advise them that I would be conducting an investigation
12 May	I provided details of the complaint to the GLA’s Independent Person
15 May	The Independent Person provided me with his initial assessment of the complaint
6 June	I wrote to AM Moema to ask some questions regarding the investigation
9 June	I forwarded this to the Assembly Group Head of Office
21 June	I chased the Assembly Group Head of Office for a response
22 June	The Assembly Group Head of Office confirmed a response would be provided shortly
23 June	The Assembly Group Head of Office confirmed that final information was

	being gathered
28 June	AM Moema provided the responses to the questions asked along with a previous newsletter as requested
7 July	I sent an update to the Independent Person on the investigation
7 July	I wrote to AM Moema to request the previous newsletter was resent due to file corruption issues
13 July	I received the newsletter from AM Moema (see Appendix B) and sent it to the Independent Person
25 July	The Independent Person sent me his opinion on the investigation
26 July	Decision made.

Factual background

12. In conducting the investigation, I have considered evidence from the following sources:

- The letter of Complaint received on 8 April 2022.
- The Newsletter sent on 1 April 2022.
- The information from AM Moema to the Monitoring Officer sent by email on 4 May and 28 June 2022.
- The views of the Independent Person received on 25 July 2022.

The content of the Newsletter

13. The Newsletter contains a series of stories which describe the activities that AM Moema undertook during the previous month in her capacity as an AM.

14. This included reference to the work of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, and the London Assembly Housing Committee. AM Moema is a member of both of these committees. It also included reference to a number of visits AM Moema made to areas within her constituency which includes the London boroughs of Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest.

15. The Newsletter also refers to activity undertaken in March 2022 by the London Assembly to lobby government with regard to policing and housing.

16. AM Moema has also supplied copies of her previous newsletter from January 2022. This newsletter is similar in nature and tone to the Newsletter complained about albeit this newsletter was not sent out in the pre-election period. See Appendix B.

The distribution of the Newsletter

17. The Newsletter was sent from AM Moema’s GLA email address and this email address, and her AM title, are included in both the text of the covering email and the Newsletter itself.
18. AM Moema has advised that the Newsletter was sent to 346 recipients, this group is broadly comprised of the following:
 - Mayor and Deputy Mayor
 - Other Labour AMs
 - Councillors from various political parties from across Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest
 - MPs from various political parties from across the constituency
 - London local authority leaders from various political parties
 - Regional and national organisations – community groups and individuals representing organisations that have contacted AM Moema about issues in the constituency
 - GMB trade union (which AM Moema is a member of)
 - Organisations in the GLA Group
 - Constituents who have opted into receiving updates from AM Moema
 - Local media outlets
19. From the list provided, I calculated that 53% of the recipients are elected politicians.

The timing of the Newsletter

20. The Newsletter was sent out by AM Moema on Friday 1 April 2022.
21. The GLA’s pre-election period commenced on Monday 28 March 2022.

The seeking of advice/guidance and use of resources

22. AM Moema has confirmed that she received a copy of the GLA’s guidance on the pre-election period from the London Assembly Secretariat Head of Office. This guidance makes reference to the GLA’s Use of Resources guidance³.
23. AM Moema has confirmed she did not take further advice on the newsletter before sending it. She stated that *“I believed, however wrongly upon reflection, that my newsletter could be used to keep key stakeholders abreast of my work as an Assembly Member as opposed to being a form of publicity. I understand that I got this wrong, and I sincerely apologise.”*

³ [GLA Use of Resources guidance](#)

24. AM Moema has also confirmed that no other GLA resources were used and that she wrote and issued the newsletter herself, without the support of GLA officers.

AM Moema's response to the complaint

25. AM Moema wrote to me in response to the complaint and stated:

"I would like to apologise unreservedly for my error of judgement in issuing a newsletter during the pre-election period.

To provide some background – whilst not attempting to claim mitigating circumstances – on this occasion I had simply taken my eye off the ball in a rush to complete a number of my duties before the pre-election period began.

My monthly newsletter was intended to keep my constituents and key stakeholders informed of my work at the Greater London Authority, and not to seek political advantage during the local elections.

Nevertheless, I recognise that the newsletter should have been issued some days earlier to ensure it was circulated outside of the pre-election period.

I can also confirm that I wrote and issued the newsletter myself, without the support of officers.

I am now putting in place some processes to ensure that this will never happen again, and I would like to finish by once again apologising for any upset caused."

26. AM Moema also stated the following:

"I hope that the balance of stakeholders, which includes those of other political persuasions, serves to reiterate that I did not intend to use this tool as a means seek to persuade or influence a political view or agenda, but simply to inform. However, I again accept that this was sorely misjudged and I am very sorry."

Summary of factual findings

27. The facts of this matter are summarised below:

- AM Moema sent the Newsletter from her GLA email account about her London Assembly role and related constituency activity during the pre-election period for the London borough council elections.
- The Newsletter was sent to 346 recipients, just over half of which were elected politicians.
- While AM Moema was sent the GLA guidance on the pre-election period, it appears that she did not take this into account and if it was taken into account, it was not applied

correctly and she did not take any further advice on whether sending the Newsletter was permissible activity during the pre-election period.

- AM Moema has apologised for this.

Allegations of breach of the Code

Application of the Code

28. I am satisfied that at the time of the conduct complained of AM Moema was acting in her official capacity as a Member of the GLA.
29. The Newsletter discusses matters related to AM Moema's constituency of Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest and is branded accordingly. It also refers to the London Assembly's work and AM Moema's activity as part of the London Assembly's committees. The email circulating the Newsletter was sent from AM Moema's London.gov.uk email address, included her AM email signature and the Newsletter itself also includes this information.
30. Given this, I am satisfied that AM Moema was acting in her official capacity as a Member of the GLA, she was therefore obliged to comply with the Code of Conduct which includes ensuring appropriate use of the GLA's resources.

Allegation of breach of paragraph 6 of the Code

31. The Complainant has alleged that AM Moema is in breach of the following requirements in the Code:

6. You...

- (a) *must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and*
- (b) *must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority—*
- i. act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements;*
 - ii. ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and*
- (c) *must have regard to any Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.*

32. I have considered that the relevant paragraph of the Code in relation to the conduct complained about is paragraph 6.

33. I have taken into account the comments made by AM Moema above and the further information I have gathered on this matter.

34. I have considered all of the evidence gathered during my investigation and have shared this evidence with the GLA's Independent Person.
35. To the extent that I do not specifically mention in this decision notice, evidence or representations which have been raised in correspondence, or otherwise considered as part of my investigation as referred to above, I have taken these matters into account, but they do not change the decision reached.

Discussion

36. Paragraph 6 of the Code, as set out above, requires members of the Authority to act in accordance with the Authority's requirements with regard to publicity. These requirements are set out in the GLA's Use of Resources guidance⁴.
37. This Use of Resources guidance provides specific guidance concerning GLA publicity and communications which applies at all times, including during pre-election periods. It states the following (**bold** is my emphasis).

Para 37. *"All GLA publicity should: be lawful; be cost effective; be objective; be even-handed; be appropriate; have regard to equality and diversity; **be issued with care during periods of heightened sensitivity**"*

Para 41. *"Publicity about the Mayor, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assembly, individual Assembly Members may quite properly include:*

- *Information about **their contact details, the positions they hold and their responsibilities;***
- *Information about that person's proposals, decisions, and recommendations only where this is relevant to their position and responsibilities in the GLA; and*
- ***Information about work done by individual Assembly Members which may be publicised,** and also their views on issues relevant to London presented where they have been the "face" of a particular campaign. Any such publicity must be objective and explanatory, and whilst it may acknowledge the part played by those individuals as holders of particular positions, the personalisation of issues or personal image making should be avoided"*

38. The Use of Resources guidance also provides specific guidance regarding newsletters from AM as set out below:

Appendix 1 para 7 states: *"The principle of a newsletter to constituents is to tell the constituents what their Assembly Member has been doing and provide contact details to enable the constituents to get in touch and report to the Member on any*

⁴ [GLA Use of Resources guidance](#)

issues of concern. GLA resources and facilities could be used for this. It is possible to record the fact that an Assembly Member is a member of a political party."

39. As set out above, it is permissible for an AM to use GLA resources and facilities to send a newsletter to constituents. The content of AM Moema's Newsletter was, in my view, consistent with Appendix 1 para 7 of the GLA's Use of Resources guidance as it set out what AM Moema had been doing and provided contact details to get in touch with her.
40. Having reviewed a previous newsletter sent by AM Moema in January 2022, it is clear that it is similar in nature and tone. See appendix B.
41. However, as the complainant has noted, this Newsletter was sent out during the pre-election period which is a period of heightened sensitivity preceding an election. The GLA's Use of Resources guidance provides further information regarding communications during this period. Relevant paragraphs pertaining to this matter are extracted below (again, **bold** is my emphasis).

*"46. During a relevant pre-election period and in accordance with GLA pre-election guidance, **any proactive publicity by the Authority (including its Members and officers) in all its forms, for candidates, any other politicians involved in the elections or for political parties or campaigns is precluded...**"*

*"58. All publicity and communications material issued by any of the relevant bodies during the pre-election period must be, and must be seen to be, politically neutral. **Anything that could reasonably be regarded as giving a political candidate or their supporters/party an advantage in the election is not politically neutral.** This applies no matter what the justifications for the publicity may be. "Publicity" refers to any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a section of the public and includes press releases, newsletters, consultation exercises and unsolicited letters to constituents."*

*"59(c). **No publicity (in any form) for those persons** who are members of the relevant bodies and **who are candidates** or otherwise involved directly **in the election** shall be prepared or issued unless it is deemed that the publicity is properly part of routine business and/or is necessary in order to discharge statutory requirements that are required to be undertaken at that point in time."*

42. It also makes reference to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity which notes that:

*"34. During the period between the notice of an election and the election itself, local authorities should not publish any publicity on controversial issues or report views or proposals in such a way **that identifies them with any individual members** or groups of members. **Publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published by local authorities during this period** unless expressly authorised by or under statute..."*

43. The elections in May 2022 were London borough council elections, held across the 32 London boroughs. This was not an election for members of the London Assembly who are elected via the Greater London Authority elections alongside the Mayor of London. However, there were several AMs who were also standing for election/re-election in those elections. During the pre-election period, the London Assembly did not hold statutory meetings and extra care was taken to ensure that there was no improper influence of voters during the election.
44. AM Moema was standing as a candidate to be re-elected as a councillor in the London Borough of Hackney.
45. Given this, it is my view that sending out the Newsletter that related to AM Moema's work was proactive publicity issued during the pre-election period which was prohibited by the GLA's Use of Resources and therefore should not have been sent out by AM Moema.
46. I consider that sending out the Newsletter during the pre-election period '*could reasonably be regarded as giving a political candidate or their supporters/party an advantage*'. I do not consider that the Newsletter could be described as being '*publicity which is properly part of routine business and/or is necessary in order to discharge statutory requirements that are required to be undertaken at that point in time*'.
47. Therefore, I consider that AM Moema did not act in accordance with the GLA's Use of Resources guidance, nor the Code of Local Authority Publicity.
48. Accordingly, I consider that AM Moema's behaviour breached paragraph 6 of the Code in that she failed to act in accordance with the GLA's reasonable requirements for the use of the GLA's resources, that she used the GLA's resources improperly for political purposes and in doing so could reasonably be regarded as having conferred an advantage on herself. In addition, it does not appear that AM Moema had regard to the Code of Local Authority Publicity.
49. I note and take into account from AM Moema's correspondence with me about this matter that this was an oversight on her part in the first days of the pre-election period, and that she has provided me with an apology for this.
50. I note and take into account that AM Moema's Newsletter has a relatively limited circulation and of this, more than 50% of the recipients are also elected politicians.
51. I also note and take into account that she has put in place measure to ensure this will not be repeated. I have advised AM Moema that she should take advice in advance from London Assembly Secretariat senior officers and/or the Monitoring Officer in matters such as this in future.

Decision on alleged breach of paragraph 6

52. I find that for the reasons set out above AM Moema has breached paragraph 6 (a) (b) and (c) of the Code.

Concluding remarks

53. In accordance with section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'), I have sought and taken into account the views of one of the independent persons appointed by the GLA for the purposes of section 28. His comments are attached at Appendix C.

54. The Independent Person and I have reached the same conclusion on this complaint, that AM Moema has breached paragraph 6 (a), (b) and (c) of the Code of Conduct.

55. As set out above, I find that Assembly Member Moema has breached paragraph 6 (a), (b) and (c) of the Code of Conduct.

56. As set out in the Complaints Process, I have no legal powers to apply formal sanctions other than to provide an opinion on the conduct of the GLA Member concerned as compared to the expectations of behaviour as set out in the Code.

57. I note and take into account that AM Moema has provided an apology for her actions and has put in place measures to ensure this does not happen again.

58. This Decision Notice has been sent to the Complainant and AM Moema on 26 July 2022 and is available on the GLA's website.

59. There is no right to appeal to the GLA against this decision.

Signed:



Emma Strain
GLA Monitoring Officer
26 July 2022

Appendix A: Newsletter

Spring 2022 General Newsletter



Sem Moema AM



To: sem.moema@london.gov.uk

Fri 4/1/2022 5:43 PM



Sem Moema AM March 2022 Ne...
PDF - 3 MB

Dear Friend

Please find attached my Spring 2022 Newsletter.

Kind regards

Sem Moema AM

London Assembly Member for North East (Islington, Hackney and Waltham Forest)

LONDONASSEMBLYLABOUR

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

Sem.Moema@london.gov.uk

www.london.gov.uk

I may use your contact details to inform you about the work I am doing as your Assembly Member.

If you do not wish to be contacted, please email me at

Sem.Moema@london.gov.uk

SEM MOEMA AM

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CHILD Q

A string of disturbing incidents have shown that racism and misogyny are still embedded in police practice of the Met when it comes to treatment of black girls and women. School should be a safe place for all children, and the actions of the police in Child Q's case grossly violated this.

Child Q's horrendous ordeal at the hands of officers has devastated the community, but it is not an isolated incident. Many young black Londoners are disproportionately impacted by police stop and searches. It's time for change and for the police to meaningfully rebuild trust and confidence.

At the London Assembly Police & Crime Committee meeting, I questioned the Assistant Commissioner of the Met, Louisa Rolfe, on the despicable treatment of Child Q. I urged the Assistant Commissioner to work with community groups such as Hackney Account and to review processes for suspending officers who have committed gross misconduct. Follow this link here to see my full line of questioning of the Assistant Commissioner:

webcasts.london.gov.uk/Assembly

Additionally, I have written to the Home Secretary to demand actions and answers over the shocking treatment of Child Q. I have urged Priti Patel to ensure the next Met Commissioner is up to the task of weeding out racism in parts of the Met. Alongside this, I joined thousands of Hackney residents, parents, carers, and young people to echo my outrage at the actions of the police officers, who mistreated Child Q.

Child Q was denied the dignity, respect and safeguarding she deserved. Officers did not treat her as a child.



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HOUSING

I have been working with colleagues on the Housing Committee at City Hall to focus on lobbying the Mayor and Government for an independent Private Sector Rent Commission to create rent controls, freeze private sector rent, and enforce measures to reduce rents and keep them at lower levels for private tenants.

As Chair of London Labour Housing Group I have contributed to a new publication, [Housing is a Human Right: How Labour Can Make It A Reality](#), which places human rights at the centre of housing policy and emphasises the importance of securing decent, safe and stable homes for all.

SCHOOL STREETS IN NORTH EAST LONDON

It was brilliant to welcome Sadiq Khan to Hackney to celebrate 500 School Streets in London. There are 48 School Streets in Hackney, 29 in Islington, and 15 in Waltham Forest. Check out each Council's website for more information.

School Streets are encouraging more children and young people to walk, cycle and scoot to school as well as improving air quality. At Gayhurst School in Hackney for example, 92% of trips are made by walking or cycling.

12th March, 2022, 12:01 am

New report urges Labour to place human rights at centre of housing policy offer

I welcome the call from Sadiq Khan to grant him the powers to freeze private rents in London.

For too long, private renters have been at the bottom of the Government's priorities list, despite making up over a third of Londoners. The Mayor's rent freeze would private tenants £3,000 on average, having a significant impact on those struggling to keep up with the cost of living crisis.

Renters need a better deal overall. Alongside the Government finally delivering on its pledge to end no-fault section 21 evictions, a freeze on rents would go a long way towards this.

SEM MOEMA AM

London Assembly Labour Spokesperson for Housing



@CityHallLabour



SEM MOEMA FOR ISLINGTON, HACKNEY, AND WALTHAM FOREST

SEM MOEMA AM

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SKILLS AND JOBS IN NORTH EAST LONDON

I visited the Redmond Community Centre in Woodberry Down where I met amazing residents engaging with the Hackney Works training programme.

This outstanding scheme provides careers brokerage, advice, guidance, and support. I was inspired by stories of their motivation to pursue new careers in the face of our recovery from the pandemic.



VISIT TO THE FORMER HOLLOWAY WOMEN'S PRISON

I joined Cllr Diarmaid Ward on a visit to the Holloway Prison scheme which has been given approval by Islington Council. The redevelopment of the former Holloway Prison site is a huge opportunity to make a significant contribution to the borough's housing targets and it is positive the scheme will deliver 985 homes of which 60% will be affordable, 415 of which will be for social rent, and 5% of these allocated to women in impacted by the criminal justice system, which is greatly needed in the area.



Islington does not have many large brownfield sites like this, which is why the scheme is important and by housing hundreds of families from the waiting list can make a real difference. On top of the amount of housing, the scheme will create new green space and a women's centre.



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INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

In celebration of International Women’s Day this year, I called on everyone, both in North East London, and beyond, to support this year’s campaign to break the bias. This campaign aims to create a gender-equal world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination, and a world where difference is valued and celebrated.

We want to work together to forge women’s equality and create a safer world for everyone. We can all do our bit to do this by breaking the bias in our communities and workplaces, as well as our schools, colleges and universities.



MEETING WITH SEB DANCE, DEPUTY MAYOR FOR TRANSPORT



I met with the Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, to relay concerns from constituents and Councillors about transport issues in North East London including tube noise on the Victoria Line, new bus route proposals, renewal of several key junctions, and the expansion of bike share and active travel schemes throughout my constituency.

Additionally, I highlighted details of a petition by a local bus users group regarding the impact of proposed changes by Transport for London to several bus routes.



SEM MOEMA FOR ISLINGTON, HACKNEY, AND WALTHAM FOREST

SEM MOEMA AM

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KURDISH COMMUNITY CENTRE VISIT

I was pleased to visit Halkevi Kurdish and Turkish Community Centre in Dalston. I wished all those observing, a wonderful Kurdish New Year, Newroz, and new beginnings. I hope this Newroz, we reflect on Kurdish peoples' struggle for democracy, freedom, and dignity throughout the world.



MOISHE HOUSE VISIT AND CELEBRATING PURIM IN MARCH

Delighted to join residents and friends of Moishe House in Hackney Downs for Shabbat. Many thanks to Moishe House for inviting me to learn about Jewish culture, tradition and Moishe House's active involvement with communities across Hackney and London. I was also delighted to join residents throughout North East London in celebrating Purim this March.



SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

I joined the Mayor of London and tens of thousands of Londoners to show our unending solidarity with the Ukrainian people. We remain in awe of their strength, resolve and courage.



Get In Touch:

Write to me about your local enquiries, comments, and community organisations. Please email me at Sem.Moema@london.gov.uk or follow updates on Twitter @Semakaleng & Facebook @semmoema4northeast



SEM FOR ISLINGTON,
HACKNEY, AND
WALTHAM FOREST
MOEMA

Appendix B: Other newsletter

SEM MOEMA AM

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SOLACE WOMEN'S AID REFUGE VISIT

I was honoured to visit a refuge to see first-hand the excellent work of Solace Women's Aid and to learn how I can help further. Solace is the largest domestic abuse charity in London. They say that they have seen calls to their advice line more than double since the start of the pandemic.

Women's refuges were already facing a funding crisis before the pandemic hit, and there was little or no financial resilience to meet huge new challenges. Sadly, there has been a 25% cut to funding for local authority spending on domestic abuse refuges since 2010. Women's refuges must have the resources they need. I will continue to advocate for proper support for women's refuges across London.



FRANCIS ROAD LTN

I was delighted to visit the Francis Road Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme in Leyton. The LTN has been very successful in driving down traffic and congestion in the local area. The Mayor has implemented a range of measures to support active travel in North East London, introducing LTNs to reduce traffic, congestion, and working closely with boroughs to ensure there is enough room for people to walk and cycle safely.



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MOEMA

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HOUSING

As the London Assembly Labour Group spokesperson for housing, I continue to work to deliver quality homes, tackle housing issues, and press Government Ministers to devolve powers to City Hall.

This month, I highlighted concerns of Londoners who continue to face the epidemic of overcrowded homes. There is an epidemic of families stuck in overcrowded homes, with children and parents struggling for privacy and a place to study whilst waiting for permanent, affordable housing that meets their needs.

If we are going to make a difference, the government must devolve powers to City Hall to implement vital measures such as rent controls and a Londonwide landlord licensing scheme. An increase in the level of funding for council house building programmes is essential if we are going to make sure Londoners' lives aren't blighted by poor housing.

BAN ON SECTION 21 EVICTIONS

I wrote to Michael Gove, the Minister for Housing, urging him to push through a very long-awaited ban on section 21 evictions as part of his levelling-up strategy announcement, which covers reforms to the private rented sector.



POLICY DISCUSSION

I joined London Young Fabian's virtual panel "Generation Rent: Making Housing Affordable for Young Londoners" to discuss the housing concerns, needs, and demands of young people throughout London.

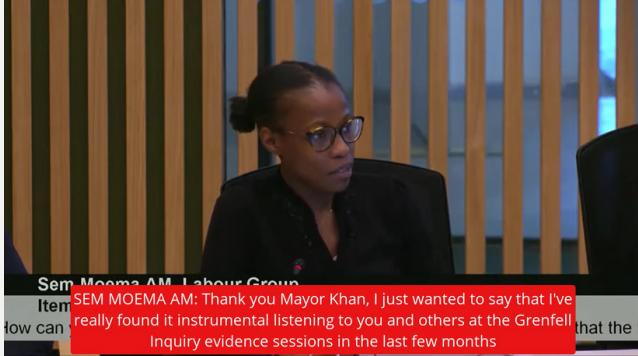
Working alongside the Mayor and Leaders, I will continue to press for affordable, social, and accessible housing for young people.



SEM MOEMA FOR ISLINGTON, HACKNEY, AND WALTHAM FOREST

SEM MOEMA AM

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MAYOR'S QUESTIONS TIME

Delighted to attend London's new City Hall where I took part in Mayor's Questions Time.

I asked the Mayor about the building safety scandal and how leaseholders and tenants can be supported in light of Michael Gove's recent statement.

Four and half years after Grenfell, Londoners are still living in unsafe housing. This is unacceptable and the Government's proposed measures have huge gaps in support.

The Government has to ensure that any efforts to solve fire safety risks aren't funded from the Affordable Housing Fund. We need to see building safety risks solved as a priority, alongside new affordable housing.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

I joined my colleagues across City Hall in observing Holocaust Memorial Day. City Hall, the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET), and The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) hosted a virtual ceremony that commemorated victims of the Holocaust and provided time for reflection for those affected by other genocides.



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VISIT YOUTH GROUP HEADLINERS UK

I was delighted to visit Headliners UK, a charity based in Islington who enable young people to engage in multi-media journalism.

Young members of the charity are empowered to express themselves, tell their stories, and change their lives. I was proud of the work they do and listened to their feedback regarding local services.



NEXUS STUDIOS VISIT SHOREDITCH

I joined the Mayor of London and the Mayor of Hackney on a visit to Nexus Studios, an independent production and animation studio in Shoreditch, which supports and champions Londoners who are under-represented in the creative industries to get jobs.

This visit was a part of the Mayor's new flagship skills programme which will offer any Londoner who is 19 or over – and who is unemployed or in a low paid job – the chance to access training for free.



Get In Touch:

Write to me about your local enquiries, comments, and community organisations.
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Appendix C: Statement from the Independent Person

Opinion by Alan Simcock, as an Independent Person under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of complaints against a Member of the Greater London Authority

I have considered the evidence to which the Monitoring Officer has referred. I consider that this evidence is sufficient to enable a decision on this complaint. I note that the Assembly Member has apologised, and that the breach occurred only a few days after the start of the period of heightened sensitivity. Nevertheless, I consider that it would be appropriate that the Assembly should record that the publication of this newsletter constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct, in order to make clear that Assembly Members who are candidates in elections to other bodies should not use the Authority's resources in this way during the periods of heightened sensitivity before those elections, but that no further action is needed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A J C Simcock'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

A J C SIMCOCK

25 July 2022