

MAYOR OF LONDON

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Our ref: MGLA270917-8661

Date: 09 NOV 2017



Thank you for your letter of 26 September about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 7 September. My reply to each motion is set out below:

Motion 1 – Privately Owned Public Space in London

I am very committed to London's public realm - our streets, squares, parks, green spaces and waterways - where the public life of the city is played out. Fostering an open and accessible network of well-designed, accessible and functional spaces should be at the heart of planning for a healthy, inclusive and prosperous city. As London grows, it is also important that new developments promote social integration.

In my vision 'A City for All Londoners' you will see that I am committed to do everything in my power to promote good design of public spaces to improve everyone's quality of life. During the consultation process on this vision document, stakeholders recognised that there is a small but increasing number of spaces privately owned and managed, particularly in areas of new development. Stakeholders felt it was important to ensure those spaces are managed well and viewed as community assets for the public good, stressing the importance of ensuring these public spaces remain welcoming to all.

I am now consulting the public and stakeholders on my seven new draft statutory strategies. This will include the London Plan, my Spatial Development Strategy, which will provide local planning authorities with an overarching framework for their local plans, helping them to tackle strategic as well as local issues effectively.

In continuing my commitment to make sure that the views and needs of Londoners are at the heart of City Hall policymaking, the new London Plan will propose that effective management and ongoing maintenance of public realm should be a key consideration in the design of places and secured through the planning system where appropriate. Whether publicly or privately owned, public realm should be open, free to use and offer the highest level of public access. The new policy will propose that these spaces should only have rules restricting the behaviour of the public that are considered essential for safe management of the space.

I will develop a Public London Charter, setting out the rights and responsibilities for the users, owners and managers of public spaces irrespective of land ownership.

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Motion 2 – Domestic Abuse

I'd like to thank you and Len Duvall AM for your focus on this aspect of tackling violence against women and girls. As you know, I take violence against women and girls very seriously and as such have made it a priority area in my Police and Crime Plan.

Domestic abuse is one of the most complex, disturbing and insidious types of offending. We know that this has historically been an underreported crime for a wide range of reasons, and I'm clear that we must consider these statistics and their meaning very carefully. This is something we need to understand better, and that's why, in my Police and Crime Plan, I committed to commissioning specific work to look beneath reported crime statistics so that we can say with much greater certainty what changes in figures mean.

I am keen to ensure that any action around Domestic Abuse sits as part of a broader strategic approach to tackling violence against women and girls across London. As such, we are in principle supportive of the idea of introducing a domestic abuse offenders register however, before we consider introducing new measures such as these, I'm clear that we must be certain we are making full use of the range of existing legislation to protect victims and enforce against perpetrators. This work is being pursued as part of the VAWG strategy refresh. My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has already begun this work and a new strategy will be published this month.

The VAWG strategy consultation has highlighted a number of areas that it would be useful to raise with the Home Secretary. Once work on the strategy has been completed I will be writing to the Home Secretary to raise your suggestion and other issues that require central Government support and response.

Motion 3 – Tube Noise

I thank the Assembly for their continued interest in this topic. As you will be aware, this is something that Transport for London (TfL) and I take extremely seriously. My Deputy Mayor for Transport has raised this matter a number of times at the highest levels within TfL and I have agreed to meet Assembly Members to discuss residual concerns about night tube noise.

TfL has a dedicated team to resolve tube noise complaints which is working hard to address residents' concerns. For example, I understand that of those complaints logged related to the night tube, TfL has been able to resolve around two-thirds. Assembly Members will be aware that TfL has been trying different options across London, including the rail grinding and shock absorbers mentioned in your letter and will continue to work with the people affected to find suitable long-term solutions to concerns. I have asked TfL to examine fully the specific recommendations included in this motion and will respond more fully in due course.

Motion 4 – RAF Northolt

I thank the Assembly for their interest in this topic. As you will be aware, I take the impact of flights on local communities extremely seriously and continue to make the case for Government to do more to address the concerns of those affected by aviation activity.

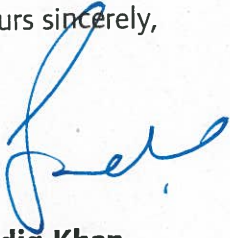
RAF Northolt exists to fulfil a particular role for the UK Government and I would be greatly concerned if it sought to broaden its activity with growth in its commercial operations. RAF Northolt should not use its status as a military airfield to avoid the public scrutiny that would apply to any civil airfield.

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It has been confirmed by the Government that RAF Northolt will close for some months in 2018 to undertake improvements to the runway and extend its life. I am not aware of any proposals to expand the number of commercial flights from RAF Northolt.

I have asked Transport for London to monitor this situation closely. If it becomes clear that an increase in commercial flights is being progressed, I would raise my concerns and those of the local community at the highest levels of Government.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London