

**THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY'S
ETHICAL STANDARDS REGIME**

**MONITORING OFFICER DECISION NOTICE:
NO ACTION**

GLA Case Reference: Apr-01/12

Decision

To take No Action on the complaint.

Complaint

Below is a general and brief summary of the Complainant's complaint

The Complainant alleged that, whilst in office as Mayor of London, using GLA resources, and without making the proper declarations of interest, Mr Ken Livingstone, former Mayor of London, commissioned events in 2007 to the advantage of Ms Jan Woolf (the mother of Mr Livingstone's child) and her husband; including:

- paying £6, 737 to Ms Woolf's production company, Rootball Productions, to perform a play about slavery at City Hall;
- an anti-Iraq war event organised by Ms Woolf;
- the free use of a reception room at City Hall for an event for the Caspari Foundation where Ms Woolf was then employed as a fundraiser;
- the free use of exhibition space provided at City Hall for a photographic exhibition organised by Ms Woolf and featuring photographs taken by her husband.

The Complainant also alleged that Mr Livingstone had a prejudicial interest in a decision he took to grant planning permission for a development at Stockwell Park Community Trust, who employed Ms Woolf at that time.

History of the complaint proceedings

The complaint was considered by the Assessment Sub-Committee of the GLA's Standards Committee on 4 May 2012, but the sub-committee decided that it could not determine the complaint without further information.

Accordingly, the sub-committee decided to adjourn its consideration of the complaint, to enable the GLA's Monitoring Officer to obtain further information; including asking Mr Livingstone about the decisions he is alleged to have taken, and his alleged failure to make proper declarations of interests.

Mr Livingstone responded to the Monitoring Officer's enquiries by leaving a telephone message for the Monitoring Officer on 25th May 2012; by having a telephone

conversation with the Monitoring Officer on 1 June 2012; and by writing to the Monitoring Officer in a letter dated 4th June 2012.

Mr Livingstone's response may be summarised as follows:

- There was only one reference in Mayoral Approval Form MA3186 to Rootball Productions (at page 8 of the form) and that, when he signed the Mayoral Approval Form, he would have had no idea that Rootball Productions was in any way related to Jan Woolf;
- He has spoken to Jan Woolf about the complaint who pointed out that she was employed as a teacher at the time and the money paid to Rootball Productions was exclusively to cover payments to the actors, directors and writers and she took none of the money herself;
- That he did not see any of Rootball Productions invoices and would not, as Mayor, have seen or dealt with these;
- That in relation to the Stockwell Park Community Trust planning application, he was unaware that Ms Woolf worked for them until he read the Monitoring Officer's letter; that Ms Woolf herself was unaware that the trust had an application in; and that she was employed on a freelance basis as a fundraiser for youth projects in the community centre.

Reasons for decision

The Monitoring Officer carefully considered the following:

- the Complainant's complaint correspondence dated 16 April 2012;
- Request for Mayoral Approval Form – MA3186;
- The GLA approval process for Exhibitions;
- The GLA exhibition guidelines;
- The GLA application to exhibit form;
- Rootball Productions expenses overview;
- Rootball Productions invoices;
- The telephone and written responses of Mr Livingstone referred to above; and
- the following paragraphs of the GLA's Code of Conduct for Members:

Paragraph 5: *You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.*

Paragraph 6(a): *You 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.*

Paragraph 6(b): *You 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).*

Paragraphs 8-12: *Requirements to disclose personal interests, and the effect of prejudicial interests.*

Having considered the above, the Monitoring Officer is of the view that Mr Livingstone has provided appropriately detailed, and credible responses to his enquiries.

The Monitoring Officer considers it is likely that, as Mayor of London, Mr Livingstone would only have seen the Mayoral Approval Form, and not the invoices for payment, relating to Rootball Productions.

The Monitoring Officer also notes that, as is pointed out by Mr Livingstone, Rootball Productions is only mentioned once in the Mayoral Approval Form, and there is no reference to Ms Woolf in that document.

In view of this, and the other information provided by Mr Livingstone, which seems both reasonable and credible, the Monitoring Officer has decided that there is no potential breach of the GLA's Code of Conduct that warrants formal investigation, and has therefore decided to take No Action on the complaint. In taking this decision, the Monitoring Officer has also had regard to the fact that the matters complained about date back to 2007, and the fact that Mr Livingstone is no longer in elected office.

Confidentiality and publication

The Complainant, Priti Patel MP, did not request that her identity and a summary of her complaint be withheld from Mr Livingstone, and taking into account the public interest, the GLA's Monitoring Officer has decided that these details should be provided to Mr Livingstone and should also be published.

This Decision Notice has been sent to the Complainant, Priti Patel MP, and Mr Livingstone and will be published by the GLA for a period of 6 years starting from 4th July 2012.

Right to appeal

There is no right to appeal against this decision.

Signed Ed Williams

Date 4th July 2012

GLA Monitoring Officer