

LONDON ASSEMBLY

Dr Onkar Sahota, Chair of the Health Committee

London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

31 January 2018

Dear Sadiq

Eye health and preventing sight loss in London

Thank you for your initial response dated 23 January to the Health Committee's report on eye health and preventing sight loss in London.

I wish to express concern, on behalf of the Health Committee, that your response does not convey the gravity of commitment that I know you have regarding health issues affecting Londoners. The Committee is aware and always mindful of the fact that you have no jurisdiction over clinical services in London.

However, you have made clear on number of occasions that you see a role for the Mayorality to champion and challenge the NHS and wider health services in London and to speak up for Londoners on key public health issues. Disappointingly, the response I have had does not do justice to that commitment.

Our investigation showed a clear consensus across eye health stakeholders that what is needed on this issue is political leadership of the sort that you exercise in your role as Chair of the London Health Board, to galvanise action on this issue. We also set out specific recommendations on how you could incorporate eye health into your existing mayoral programmes.

We therefore request that you ask your health team to respond to each of the individual recommendations made in our report, so we can be satisfied that this matter has been given the serious consideration that the recommendations deserve. For ease of reference, the recommendations are set out below.

Most critically, we are disappointed that you have made no reference in your response to any form of support for the development of a London-wide eye health strategy. The eye health sector is united in its call for this type of strategy to provide a unified and cohesive response to this growing public health challenge.

I would therefore like to seek a meeting with you, accompanied by the senior representatives from the eye health sector to discuss ways in which we can move forward on this issue.

We would welcome a response to each of the recommendations in our report by 1 March 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Onkar', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Dr Onkar Sahota, Chair of the London Assembly Health Committee