

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA200819-0284

21 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 15 August 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

You asked for;

The BBC has reported that the Mayor has written to Robert Evans (chief executive of Argent, who run the King's Cross development) asking about the use of face recognition technology at King's Cross. The Guardian states that it has seen the letter and quotes from it. Is the letter something which is publicly available? Is there a way that I can find out about any response from Argent to the Mayor's letter, or about other comments or responses from the Mayor/his office?

Our response to your request is as follows:

Please find attached the information we have identified within scope of your request.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

MAYOR OF LONDON

Robert Evans

CEO King's Cross Development
King's Cross Central Limited Partnership
4 Stable Street
King's Cross
London N1C 4AB

Date: 13 AUG 2019

Dear Mr Evans,

I am writing to express my concern about reports of the private use of facial recognition software across the King's Cross development. As you will no doubt be aware, there are real concerns about the legal framework for the use of such technology in the UK.

London's incredible public spaces are a real asset to our city. They should be places that all Londoners, regardless of their age, ability, gender, gender identity, religion, race, sexual orientation or social class, can enjoy and use confidently and independently, avoiding separation or segregation.

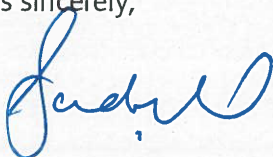
Whether privately or publicly owned or managed, these spaces should be open, free to use and offer the highest level of public access.

I am developing a Public London Charter, in line with my draft London Plan, to help ensure that our new public spaces fulfil these ambitions. This includes ensuring that the management and maintenance arrangements for the public realm maximise public access and minimise rules governing the space to only those essential for its safe management. My office can provide further details of the Charter if helpful – please contact my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe by email at [REDACTED]

You will be aware that there are serious and widespread concerns about the legal framework for the use of this technology, and I have called on the Government to legislate in order to provide certainty about exactly how it can be legally used in the UK.

In this context, I am writing to request more information about exactly how this technology is being used at King's Cross, and reassurance that you have been liaising with Government ministers and the Information Commissioner's Office to ensure its use is fully compliant with the law as it stands.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London