

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall AM

Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA310316-8386

Date: 03 MAY 2016

Dear Len

Thank you for your letter which was received on 31 March about regarding the GLA Oversight Committee's investigation and subsequent report into *The Garden Bridge Design Procurement*.

This report contained a number of recommendations and the Transport Commissioner, Mike Brown MVO, will respond to you directly on the recommendations that relate to Transport for London. I am responding to you on the remaining recommendations as set out below.

- a) The Mayor's Office should take responsibility for compiling a written record of all meetings the Mayor holds with external bodies which should include clarity about what capacity he is there in (i.e. as Mayor or as Chair of TfL).**

Minority report recommendation from the GLA Conservatives

- b) The Mayor's office should dramatically improve its recording of details of official Mayoral meetings including attendees and headline topics discussed. This should be easily accessible to GLA Members when it is relevant to GLA Committee business.**

As you are aware, there is no statutory duty to compile a written record of all meetings that the Mayor holds with internal or external stakeholders and my concern is that it may hinder free and frank discussion if all meetings are formally recorded as set out above. However, the new Mayor will need to carefully consider whether they wish to take your recommendation forward.

I am proud to have run a transparent administration throughout my two terms as Mayor. I have formally published my list of key engagements in each Mayor's Report to the Assembly despite there being no statutory requirement to do so. On the occasion where I have not listed a particular meeting in the Mayor's Report, this has been to avoid prejudicing commercial interests or when that meeting was held to discuss an emerging proposal.

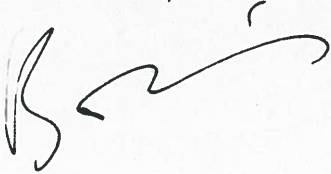
You will be aware that I have also been open and transparent when responding to Freedom of Information requests about my diary and as a consequence the Mayoral Diary is publically available on the Greater London Authority website.

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- c) Where major, priority projects are commissioned by a future Mayor and are not in the Mayor's Transport Strategy, that the Mayor implements them by directing the TfL board. Making it clear that such projects have a different status would offer two benefits: a) better protection of the respective functional body and its officers in the case of external challenge and b) greater clarity to potential bidders about the status of such projects.

I would suggest raising this matter again with the new Mayor who will need to consider carefully whether they wish to take your recommendation forward.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London