

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

6 May 2016

Dear Mr Khan,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity of congratulating you on winning your election and becoming Mayor of London. As we both know, London is an incredible city. You have, arguably, the best job in the world!

In 2015, a special commission was formed - the London Fairness Commission - to enable Londoners to question whether the path their city is taking is 'fair'. The Commission was politically neutral and took a balanced approach to each of the issues it considered.

In asking questions about fairness, the London Fairness Commission considered the complexities and subtleties of life in London, based on evidence gathered from a wide range of sources. We acknowledged the successes of the past, be they through public policy initiatives, personal initiatives, entrepreneurial efforts, design or accidents of history. However, we also looked to the future. In March 2016, the Commission's final report was published at an event in which you kindly participated.

In your manifesto, there were several policies that chimed with the London Fairness Commission's recommendations. Therefore, I am writing to you, on behalf of the Commission, to express our hope that you will fully implement our recommendations alongside your own commitments. To this end, I enclose copies of our report.

The London Fairness Commission's recommendations included:

- An immediate increase to the London minimum wage to £9.70
- Action to make employers help more with childcare costs
- Public disclosure of pay ratio data from companies and public sector bodies based in London
- Ensure that companies registered offshore declare details of property ownership
- The Mayor of London to be given powers of compulsory purchase on land/properties owned by offshore companies who are unwilling to declare the name of the ultimate beneficial owner
- Suspend right to buy for five years while supply is increased and provide a portable discount for those who have lived in social housing for 15 years

- Reduce or control the average cost of letting agents' fees and charges
- Set 'affordable rents' to 30% of household income rather than 80% of market rent
- Tax land owners in London with planning permission for new homes who refuse to develop their land for longer than 3 years

I know a magic wand cannot be waved to improve everything immediately and that change can take time. However, over 125 years ago, Charles Booth mapped poverty and wealth in London. His work, coupled with the work of others, led to social reforms that tackled the effects of poverty from which Britain, not just London, benefitted.

In the spirit of his legacy, I hope the work of the London Fairness Commission will prove to be innovative, timely and demonstrate foresight. But above all, I hope that your election will result in the implementation of policy change in line with our findings.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a successful term of office.

All the best,



Lord Victor Adebawale, CBE MA
Chair of the London Fairness Commission