

Update from the Mayor of London on COVID-19 – 10 June

- This weekend, Londoners of all ages, races and backgrounds joined millions of people around the world to come together to say that Black Lives Matter. Sadiq stands with them and shares their anger and pain. George Floyd's brutal killing must lead to immediate and lasting change in countries, cities, police services and institutions everywhere. We must root out racism wherever it is found.
- However, Covid-19 is still a very real threat and the Mayor has consistently urged people to consider ways of making their voice heard that don't put themselves and others at risk. He has reminded those planning to protest to do so safely, peacefully and within the law, to use hand sanitiser, wear a face covering and keep two meters apart from others. He is also pressing the Met over the use of stop and search, stun guns and other practices during the protests.
- This vital cause was badly let down by a tiny minority who turned violent and caused vandalism at the weekend. This is simply not acceptable. It will not be tolerated, and it will not win the lasting and necessary change we desperately need to see.
- The Mayor is working closely with the Met Commissioner, taking a zero-tolerance approach to racism and discrimination, and striving to ensure the Met's workforce is truly representative of our city at all levels. This week he has commissioned London's Deputy Mayor for Communities and Deputy Mayor for Policing to work with the police and communities to draw up an action plan for improving trust and confidence, transparency and accountability.
- It is shocking that Londoners of different ethnicities are being impacted by COVID-19 in such disproportionate ways. It has exposed the major inequalities in our society and simply cannot be ignored. This pandemic must be a wake-up call for our country. The Mayor will continue to make the case for a wide-ranging independent public inquiry that will get to the root of these problems.
- It is vital that the further easing of lockdown doesn't lead to a devastating second wave of the virus. The Mayor has expressed concern that the Government is rushing to ease the lockdown before the evidence suggests we should.
- The London Transition Board met for the first time on Tuesday 9 June. The new board, jointly chaired by the Mayor of London and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has been set up to coordinate the capital's shift from lockdown to recovery. The London Recovery Board also met for the first time last week (**see more details below**).
- Sadiq continues to be in regular contact with key London stakeholders, including business leaders, trade unions, the voluntary sector, faith groups and others, to develop our understanding of what additional support Londoners need through this crisis.

Topical issues

Belly Mujinga

The death of Belly Mujinga is heart-breaking and Sadiq is grateful to her friends and family for making the difficult and brave decision to speak out about their loss publicly. He strongly welcomed the development last week that the CPS will review the evidence surrounding her tragic death.

On hearing that no criminal charges would be brought, he wrote to the British Transport Police (BTP). The Mayor does not oversee the BTP, but has asked for further information and reassurance regarding the investigation.

Belly's death has highlighted the risks posed to our heroic transport workers. The Mayor has consistently raised with the Government his concerns about the impact of the virus on BAME communities. He announced last week that BAME staff across the Greater London Authority family will have access to risk assessments as part of measures to help those disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The Mayor hopes that other transport employers in London, including the one that Belly worked for, will do the same.

PHE Report into BAME disproportionality

Responding to the Government's delayed review into the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities, Sadiq Khan said:

"The Government's delayed review confirms that BAME people are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The Government needs to wake up to the structural problems in our society that are being laid bare by this virus and take proper and decisive action to rectify them.

"The coronavirus crisis has created even further inequality in our city and across the country, impacting BAME people, those on the lowest incomes and Londoners living in the most deprived areas of the capital.

"This report alone is not nearly enough - we need to know now why the virus disproportionately impacts these communities and crucially what is being done to stop it. The Government needs to also review the impacts of their policies that have led to a hostile environment and measures like 'No Recourse to Public Funds'. The Government needs to agree to a full independent inquiry into BAME Covid-19 deaths - with a commitment to implement the recommendations.

"At City Hall we will continue to tackle the inequalities that have been exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19 as we lead London's social and economic recovery from this pandemic. It is also time for the Government to finally agree to ethnicity being recorded at death registration. A continued failure to do means there is no accurate way to measure inequalities in our society."

Diversity in Public Realm Commission

This week the Mayor announced a new commission to review and improve diversity across London's public realm to ensure the capital's landmarks suitably reflect London's achievements and diversity.

The Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm will focus on increasing representation among Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, women, the LGBTQ+ community and disability groups.

London is one of the most diverse cities in the world, with more than 300 languages spoken every day, yet statues, plaques, street names and statues largely reflect Victorian Britain – as highlighted by recent Black Lives Matter protests. It's important that we take the right steps to work together to bring change and ensure that we can all be proud of our public landscape. Find out more [here](#).

Responding to the police incident in Tottenham involving Millard Scott, Sadiq said:

“I have asked the Metropolitan Police for an urgent explanation of this distressing incident which is understandably causing considerable concern.

“It is imperative that the incident is properly investigated by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

“It is absolutely vital that our police service retains the trust of the communities it serves.”

City Hall Action

Transition and Recovery

The London Transition Board – The London Transition Board has been set up to co-ordinate London's early steps out of lockdown to ensure that we can make progress on reopening London's economy and society, while keeping the virus under control. It met for the first time on Tuesday 9 June where there was a discussion around infection control and testing, and how the capital is responding to the biggest challenges posed by the virus.

This was followed by a discussion about the key themes the Board would focus on, including the safe reopening of businesses, transport and the use of public space, and the challenges faced in health and social care. You can find out more about the Transition Board, including its membership, [here](#).

The London Recovery Board - The London Recovery Board, which will co-ordinate the planning for London's future post-COVID, met for the first time on 4 June. The board, co-chaired by the Mayor, and the Chair of London Councils, Cllr Peter John, is supported by a recovery taskforce which will work in partnership with local authorities, health and care bodies, business groups, trade unions, the voluntary sector, academia, national Government and other bodies.

Responding to the first meeting, Sadiq Khan, said: “Today, alongside Cllr Peter John, I co-chaired the first meeting of the London Recovery Board, as we take steps towards securing the best possible future for London post-COVID.

“The Board met virtually and heard from London leaders about their experiences of COVID-19. We also discussed the economic and social recovery for the capital, leading to a greener, more equal and better future.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is the most significant public health crisis in living memory. As Mayor, I am committed to securing a better future for Londoners and ensuring that nobody is left behind. This Recovery Board will meet regularly for many months to come as we navigate the economic, health and social challenges arising from both the virus itself and from the lockdown.”

Cllr Peter John OBE, Chair of London Councils, said: “Local councils are committed to delivering renewal and growth in all of London’s communities post-COVID. Working collaboratively with the Mayor, voluntary sector, business and other London Recovery Board members, boroughs will champion the interests of Londoners, help overcome challenges and identify opportunities for positive change. Together, we can build a better future for our city.”

Emergency response

Delivery of 10m PPE Items - More than 10-million items of lifesaving PPE have been issued by London’s SCG to health and care workers combating COVID-19 across the capital.

The fire service and military have played integral roles in getting this equipment into the hands of frontline workers in each of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London.

Eleanor Kelly, Deputy Chair of London’s Strategic Coordination Group, said: “We have brought together London’s emergency services, local authorities and other critical agencies to tackle the impact of COVID-19 in the capital. We have reached this milestone at incredible pace thanks to the dedication and hard work of all our partners. There is no telling when this unprecedented demand for PPE will let up, and we will continue the effort against this virus for as long as needed.”

Transport

Mandatory face-coverings on public transport - Last week, the Transport Secretary announced that face-coverings will be mandatory on public transport services in England from 15 June. Responding to the announcement, Sadiq Khan said:

“I’m pleased that our lobbying has paid off and the Government has finally seen sense and made it mandatory for people to wear face coverings on public transport. This is something I and others have been calling on ministers to do for some time, and is in line with a large body of evidence that they can help stop the spread of coronavirus.

"I encourage anyone travelling on public transport, or anywhere you can't keep a safe 2 meter distance, to wear a face covering, but from Monday 15 June, everyone must wear a covering over their nose and mouth for the entirety of any journeys made using the public transport network. This will be mandatory and will help everyone be safer.

"TfL continues to work hard to maximise services despite staff being ill, shielding or self-isolating. The reality is that due to social distancing the effective capacity of public transport services has been dramatically reduced. Even when 100% of services are running, we can only carry between 13 per cent – 15 per cent of passengers. We all must play our part by working from home if we can and making journeys on foot or by bike if at all possible in order to keep the service safe for those who really need it. I want to thank Londoners who have made monumental sacrifices over the last ten weeks and stuck to the rules. I urge them to continue to do so to help save lives."

Temporary suspension of free travel for Older Person's Freedom Pass and 60+ passengers - Last week, TfL outlined the details of temporary changes to the Older Person's Freedom Pass and the 60+ Oyster Card, which will be introduced on 15 June.

The temporary changes, which are in accordance with the funding and finance agreement between TfL and the Government, will apply during morning peak hours - 0430 to 0900 Monday to Friday. The concession passes will remain valid after 0900 on weekdays and at all times at weekends. This is to help support social distancing on the public transport network and help control the Covid-19 virus.

By taking steps to minimise non-essential travel by others especially at peak times, TfL is making it easier for key workers, including for those over 60, to maintain social distancing when using public transport for essential journeys.

Disabled Freedom Pass holders are unaffected and will still be able to travel at all times using their pass. For full details, please see [here](#).

Night Tube update – The Government made it clear that it did not want to see the Night Tube prioritised as a condition of the recent funding deal with TfL and there was no funding for the Night Tube in the emergency support package.

TfL is continuing to ramp up Tube capacity and it is now running over 85 per cent of normal services. This work has included moving some drivers from shifts on the Night Tube to the daytime service to increase the frequency of trains during busier periods.

With the current lockdown measures in place, normal demand for the weekend Night Tube doesn't exist. For essential journeys being made at night, the Night Bus network continues to operate. Services are expected to be built back up over time, but before reintroducing the Night Tube, TfL will need to be confident that it can continue to provide extensive services for the higher demand times of day. As result, there are no plans to restart the service in the near future, but this will be kept under review by TfL.

Health

London Health Board – The London Health Board is due to meet on 30 June to consider the COVID-19 recovery plans and the implications for the implementation of the London Health and Care Vision and Health Inequalities strategy.

Business & employment

FSB discussion – Last week, the Mayor spoke with the Federation of Small Businesses about the action being taken to support London's small businesses. As we start to look forward to recovery, City Hall will continue to work closely with business groups.

Pay it Forward update – As of 8 June, £238,562 has been raised by 156 businesses thanks to 4,142 members of the public donating to Pay it Forward. You can still encourage people to back their local businesses today by paying for services now and enjoying them later through the [Pay it Forward platform](#).

London Growth Hub update – Over 1,000 businesses have already benefitted from one-to-one advisory sessions since the Covid-19 crisis began.

The Met Police & LFB

COVID-19 Related Enforcement - The MPS has produced detailed analysis of enforcement of the Covid-19 regulations in London. This analysis has established that there is a strong correlation to hot weather and holiday periods contributing to people being out and breaching the legislation in the earlier part of lock down and that the first month of the new legislation saw the most enforcement activity.

Since the introduction of the new legislation, the MPS has made very clear that its policing approach will be to help explain the new laws and encourage Londoners to play their part in adhering to them to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Officers have reported that in most interactions, once they have explained that an individual or group were in breach, people have followed the police advice without the need for the use of enforcement powers.

This approach explains why there has been such a low number of Fixed Penalty Notices (973), and an even lower number of arrests for a breach of the regulations (36). Read more on this analysis [here](#).

Violence Suppression work - The Met has established Violence Suppression Units (VSUs) to tackle violence at a local level. The Met's VSUs are a dedicated resource working across London to spearhead violence suppression. The focus of the VSUs is to identify and target the most serious offenders, infiltrate hotspot areas and tackle the key drivers of violence.

London Fire Brigade - Firefighters continue to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus by delivering medicines, care packages and food to vulnerable Londoners who are being shielded.

The London Fire Brigade has transformed a former Brigade Distribution Centre in South London into the Operation Seacole distribution hub. From this hub they deliver masks, gloves and eye protection to 33 local authority centres and London partners including police services and Transport for London. The Brigade receives orders from the health service, care homes, doctor's surgeries and mortuaries who need PPE for their staff.

Andy Roe, London Fire Commissioner, said last week:

“To have processed and delivered 10 million pieces of vital PPE to people working to combat COVID-19 is astounding and a testimony to the hard work of our staff.

“As well as maintaining a full emergency fire and rescue service, staff across the Brigade have stepped up to help vulnerable Londoners, prevent the spread of COVID-19 and assist our emergency and health partners.

“Throughout our 150 year history, London Fire Brigade has played a key role in times of crisis and this is the same today. I'm extremely proud of our staff who are going above and beyond to protect the capital.”

The emergency PPE is procured both internationally and domestically through an increasing number of UK firms.

Housing - support for rough sleepers, renters and owners

Keeping London building – Last week the Mayor confirmed his commitment to helping the capital's construction and housing sector bounce back from Coronavirus by approving a £50m loan facility for Mount Anvil, one of London's most dynamic property developers. The funding will enable the London centric housing developer to accelerate the purchase of new sites and deliver an increased number of new quality homes.

Protection for renters –The Mayor is calling for 'triple lock' protection from eviction for private renters. This includes:

- increasing welfare benefits so that they can cover any shortfalls in the rents of private tenants unable to pay them due to COVID-19 – including refugees, asylum seekers and those with no recourse to public funds;
- changing to eviction proceedings to prevent landlords evicting tenants for arrears accrued as a result of COVID-19 when the suspension on eviction proceedings is lifted; and
- Scrapping Section 21, preventing landlords using this 'no-fault' route to evict tenants.

Support for Rough Sleepers - As of the night of 7 June, 1,272 rough sleepers were safely accommodated by the GLA in hotels to enable them to follow self-isolation guidance. Along with rough sleepers accommodated in self-contained units, 1,317 rough sleepers were accommodated by Mayoral services that night.

As the lockdown eases charities and outreach workers will be implementing the Mayor's 'In For Good' principle wherever possible - providing an offer of support to everyone in the hotels so that no-one needs to return to rough sleeping when they leave.

There are currently fourteen hotels. The first four will begin to close in mid-June. The remaining ten have just had their contracts extended by one month, and some may be extended further depending on funding, to allow sufficient time to work towards offers for all.

As well as sustained funding from the Government, we need a change in the rules around non-UK nationals and the eligibility for welfare support, particularly for those with No Recourse to Public Funds.

Communities, support for vulnerable Londoners, the Voluntary and Community Sector and charities

BAME disproportionality – Last week Sadiq re-iterated his calls for the Government to urgently investigate why BAME people are more likely to die from COVID-19 and what they are going to do to stop it. The longer they delay, the more people die. We can't wait any longer.

The calls followed PHE's report being published which confirmed that people from BAME groups are dying disproportionately from COVID-19 but lacked any practical guidance, recommendations or an explanation as to why this was the case.

EHRC investigation into racial inequality - Last week, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) announced that it is set to investigate racial inequalities, which have been laid bare by the pandemic and would seek answers to serious issues that have yet to be fully answered.

Having written to the EHRC on the issue, Sadiq responded to the announcement by stating: "I'm pleased that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has acted on my call to launch an investigation into the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I asked them to investigate if enough is being done to protect BAME Londoners who are being hardest hit during the crisis and to understand the urgent action needed to mitigate its effects.

"Evidence clearly shows that Covid-19 has exposed the major health inequalities that exist in our society and has laid bare the negative impact it continues to have on the lives of BAME Londoners, including in employment and immigration status. It's crucial that lessons are learned, and action taken swiftly to address them."

Volunteers Week – Last week was Volunteers Week. Sadiq posted a video message to say thank you to the fantastic Team London volunteers, whose response to the pandemic has been phenomenal. You can watch it [here](#).

Culture and Creative Industries

COVID-19 is having a catastrophic impact on London's culture, creative industries and night-time economy, which are worth £52 billion to the capital's economy a year and account for one in six jobs.

The first meeting of the Government's Cultural Renewal Taskforce took place on 22 May, chaired by Neil Mendoza. It will now meet on a weekly basis. Sadiq continues to call on the Government to do much more to provide the support the culture and

the creative industries need to protect their future, and recently launched a £2.3 million Culture at Risk Business Support Fund to support these sectors.

Whilst the extension of the furlough scheme is welcome, the proposed tapering in July will force redundancies and bankruptcy in parts of the creative economy. Tapering will only work when businesses are able to open and trade so they can generate the income required to contribute to the scheme. For example, theatres and their supply chain businesses, are unlikely to be able to contribute to the Job Retention Scheme until they can open to the public at full capacity. The GLA will continue to raise this issue on a weekly basis with the DCMS.

Environment

The Mayor has shared a blog on five sustainable ways we're helping to get London moving. These are:

- Making central London the world's largest car-free zone of any capital in the world
- Widening pavements and trebling cycle lanes
- Opening up our world-famous bridges and streets
- Expanding the Santander Cycles hire scheme
- And keeping our commitment to improve air quality.

Air quality update - Following the decision to go into lockdown, traffic levels on TfL roads fell by as much as 60 per cent and harmful nitrogen dioxide dropped by around 50 per cent on some of London's busiest roads. But as the capital starts to get moving, traffic and pollution are now starting to rise.

The Mayor's air quality programme, including the introduction of the ULEZ, had already contributed to a reduction of 44 per cent in roadside nitrogen dioxide in central London. It has been reintroduced to reduce congestion and pollution and help tackle the climate emergency.

Parks and Green Space - The GLA's guidance on using parks and green spaces can be found [here](#).

Waste and recycling – Nearly all of London's Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have re-opened following new government guidance. Recorded activity has been quieter than normal with no major incidents reported by London boroughs.

Skills and Education

£9 million skills funding boost – The Mayor is making up to £9 million available to help skills providers to switch to remote training to help reach those who may struggle with online learning. This will help learners develop the skills they need to access employment, gain confidence in using digital tools and help them gain the wider social and economic benefits of acquiring new skills. You can find out more about the fund [here](#).

International Cooperation

Last week, the Mayor participated in two international Mayoral video conferences as part of his ongoing commitment to international cooperation between cities in the fight against COVID-19.

On 2 June, the Mayor gave one of the four keynote speeches at the *Cities Against Covid-19 Global Summit 2020*. This week-long global online summit was organised and hosted by the Mayor of Seoul and joined by Mayors and senior representatives of cities around the world. During this event, the Mayor affirmed London's commitment to future close cooperation with Seoul and a network of other major cities on a coordinated response to future pandemics.

On 3 June, the Mayor also participated in a moderated discussion on how Covid-19 will change the future of European cities, which was part of the programme of the 30th Anniversary of Polish Local Government. This was hosted by the Mayor of Warsaw and joined by two other signatories of the Pact of Free Cities – the Mayors of Prague and Budapest – as well as the Mayor of Stockholm and President of Eurocities, Anna Koenig Jerlmyr. The discussion focussed on the capacity for cities to respond to crises like the coronavirus pandemic, and the need to maintain solidarity between cities in Europe in the future. You can watch the discussion [here](#).

Media, social media

- Sadiq spoke with British Vogue editor, Edward Enniful, about anti-black racism, injustice and other systemic inequalities in our society. You can watch the video [here](#).
- Watch Brent Locked IN: interviews with local heroes including Olympian Marilyn Okoro, Ben Smith aka rapper Doc Brown, model Mariah Idrissi, footballer Rachel Yankey and award-winning author Nikesh Shukla hosted by young people from Brent as part of London Borough of Culture [here](#).

What you can do to help

City Hall is working hard to develop and establish new structures to support Londoners and to improve the city's resilience at this difficult time. You can help by promoting these services:

- **Mental health** – Mental health experts have helped us collate advice on the GLA website to help those who may be feeling down or anxious. The tips can be accessed [here](#). It also includes information on how to access services if Londoners need support with their mental health. Help with how to cope with bereavement and grief during the coronavirus outbreak can be found [here](#).
- **Pay it Forward** - Business owners should visit www.london.gov.uk/payitforward and see how Pay it Forward could help them make their way through the challenges we now face as a city.

- **London Learning at Home** - The Mayor has launched London Learning at Home, which brings together the city's free learning and cultural resources that children can access from home. It can be accessed [here](#).
- **Guidance and support for renters and landlords** - The GLA has collated advice for renters and landlords on their rights during the coronavirus crisis. Please help share the page, which can be accessed [here](#).
- **Volunteering** - [The GLA Coronavirus volunteering portal](#) remains live with updated opportunities for Londoners to safely volunteer.
- **Employment Rights Hub** - Many people are concerned about the financial impact of self-isolating or taking time off work. The Mayor's Employment Rights Hub has the latest information about what people are entitled to, including the Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, which is now open for applications. **You can access, and point those who may be concerned, to the Hub [here](#).**
- **Information on COVID-19 for non-UK nationals** - City Hall's EU Londoners Hub has specific information for non-UK nationals on how they can access to healthcare, visas, the EU settlement scheme and employment rights and how they are affected by the crisis. **The Information on COVID-19 for non-UK nationals page can be accessed [here](#).**