

MAYOR OF LONDON

Neil Sinden
Director
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Our ref: MGLA031219-8310

Date: 14 JAN 2020

Dear Mr Sinden,

Thank you for your letter of 13 November 2019. I share your concern for London's Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and appreciate your support for the approach I have taken in my London Plan, including during the Examination in Public. Throughout this process I have been clear regarding my commitment to preserving and enhancing the Green Belt and MOL.

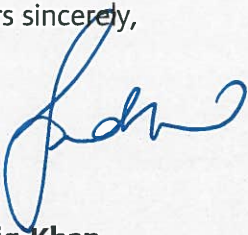
I agree that some of the Inspectors' Panel recommendations for changes to my draft London Plan policies may weaken their approach to protecting London's Green Belt and MOL. I have considered the recommendations and have published my response to them alongside the Intend to Publish version of the London Plan at: www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/intend-publish-london-plan-2019.

I believe that the continued, strong emphasis I have placed on protecting London's Green Belt and MOL is justified in order to help prevent urban sprawl, driving the re-use and intensification of previously developed land to ensure the city makes efficient use of its infrastructure, and that inner urban areas benefit from regeneration and investment. This is a key part of the approach the draft London Plan takes to prioritising development on brownfield land.

As you point out, the strong protection of the Green Belt and MOL is also important due to the multiple environmental functions this land performs particularly within the context of a climate emergency. They provide many benefits including ensuring transport emissions do not increase from sprawl, supporting London's resilience to a changing climate (such as preventing flooding) as well as supporting food growing, providing important habitats for wildlife and allowing space for recreation and relaxation for Londoners.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London