

MAYOR OF LONDON

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

Chair of the Licensing Act 2003 Select Committee
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW

Date: 05 DEC 2016

Dear Baroness McIntosh,

Many thanks for inviting my newly appointed Night Czar, Amy Lamé to give evidence to the Licensing Act 2003 Select Committee.

This review is an important and timely piece of work and one that I fully support. My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries and current Chair of the Night Time Commission, Justine Simons OBE, who leads our night time economy programme, has been following the evidence sessions closely and we keenly await your report in the New Year.

Whilst I have no statutory powers under the Licensing Act 2003, I will be providing a strategic vision and leadership for London's night time economy as a whole.

In passing responsibility for licensing to local authorities, the Licensing Act has been a positive development. Local authorities are highly experienced in producing a wide range of policies that underpin the night time economy, from planning and environmental health to regeneration and culture. Local authorities also provide for a more consensual and problem solving approach, rather than the adversarial nature of the court process.

There are also areas in which I believe the licensing landscape can be improved. A renewed push on partnership working, early problem-solving and collaborative action planning between businesses, the police and local authorities could enhance the licensing process and be of great benefit to all parties.

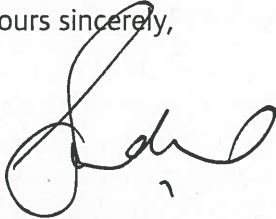
I also believe that licensing has a role to play not just in 'place-keeping' but in 'place-making'. I would support local authorities in setting out a place-making 'vision' as part of their statutory licensing policy. This would sit alongside the local planning, economic development, regeneration, community and cultural policies in shaping our high streets and town centres.

I am committed to making London a globally leading, 24-hour city. Due to the scale of the task, I have recently appointed two outstanding people to lead this work. The first is my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, the second is a new Chair of my Night Time Commission who I will be announcing shortly. They will work hand-in-glove to support the development of London's night time economy across all boroughs. As well as increasing jobs and providing a world-class night time offer for Londoners and visitors alike, they will be ensuring that the needs of residents, the safety of customers and wellbeing of night time workers is at the heart of this work.

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As I'm sure you'll understand, the Night Czar's role is part-time and sadly, due to a long-standing and unavoidable commitment, Amy is not able to attend the evidence session on Tuesday 6 December. However, I am very keen to contribute to this important review. Therefore, I have asked Justine Simons OBE to write to you in the coming days with further information about our approach to the night time economy and licensing in London.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London