

30 October 2023

Ms Johanna Sutton
Principal Policy Officer
Greater London Authority
The London Climate Resilience Review
169 Union Street,
London SE1 0LL

Dear Ms Sutton,

LONDON CLIMATE RESILIENCE REVIEW

On behalf of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, may we support this review and request a series of steps to be adopted by the Greater London Authority and the Government so that the capital can adapt and cope with the extreme weather conditions caused by climate change.

We represent the interests of firms of all sizes, from micro businesses and sole traders through to large, multinational corporates, across all 33 London local authority areas – reflecting the broad spectrum of London business opinion.

It is in that context that businesses across London have expressed concerns at the ability of infrastructure and existing buildings to be fit for purpose for extreme weather conditions.

For instance, in June, two shopping centres in Hounslow were affected by flooding. The Treaty Centre has a multi-storey car park and the larger top floor flooded into the downstairs shops below. The Blenheim Centre has an underground car park which also flooded where many cars were damaged. Drainage systems from Merton to Barnet are struggling to cope with excess rainwater.

We believe that climate change will impact business in more than just a modal-specific manner, and therefore a GLA-led forum for sharing of best practice, risks and tangible climate change adaptation action – with energy providers, water providers and other key utility stakeholders and transport providers – will be critical to ensure a joined-up approach to climate change adaptation.

We also believe the GLA needs to work with industry-bodies to create the better guidance, holistic and sector-specific, for engineers dealing with climate change adaptation.

We also urge the GLA to support better data and information. For example, the current Met Office data is not fully accurate in relation to updating climate models and has clear gaps. This hinders how businesses can plan for heavy rainfall.

Retrofitting buildings is also key to climate resilience. Many buildings, even those constructed from the 1990s are not equipped to manage the air quality and

conditioning needs of our changing temperatures. Therefore promoting investment in buildings to make them more robust and to meet climate targets is needed.

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry would be happy to work with Greater London Authority colleagues to ensure we support businesses and all Londoners for our city to be climate resilient.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

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

James Watkins
Head of Policy and Public Impact