



[by email]

Ealing Council Cabinet Office  
Perceval House  
14/16 Uxbridge Road  
London W5 2HL

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

Dear David and Angela, and Clean Air for Southall and Hayes (CASH) members,

Thank you for your letters of 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July, which were followed by Freedom of Information Requests regarding sponsorship of council events and activities by the Berkeley Group, following a public statement by the mayor of Ealing regarding a reception for LGBTQ+ Pride month.

I am replying in an open format in the interests of transparency, and because I know that the concerns you have raised are likely shared by other residents.

I would like to confirm:

- Berkeley Group sponsorship was initially and mistakenly accepted for the Pride reception, but not received. When the error was realised, the sponsorship was cancelled.
- The council has not accepted or received any other form of sponsorship from Berkeley Group since my previous letter of July 2021.
- Councillors, officers and the Mayor have been reminded of our collective commitment to transparency in our relationships with private developers, and of the importance of ensuring that resident voices are involved in decision-making.

I would also like to address the concerns you have raised regarding the participation of a local councillor (Cllr Jassal) and a member of council staff being involved in the Community Engagement Steering Group for the Green Quarter – a large development by Berkeley Group in Southall.

The council maintains an arms-length relationship with Berkeley Group necessary given the scale and scope of their developments in the borough. The Community Engagement Steering Group holds Berkeley to account and is built on the principle of open scrutiny by local residents and their representatives. I believe, therefore, that it is appropriate for Cllr Jassal and the council to participate in it.



As I (and others at the council) consistently remind CASH, the council opposed the Green Quarter development in 2009. It was called in and approved against our wishes by the then-Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. We will continue to hold the Berkeley Group to account on a range of issues, from construction disruption and air quality to affordable housing provision, with all the powers available to us. We are limited as a local authority in what we can do, but we will also continue to campaign for additional enforcement capabilities via Clean Air Act. I suspect however that we will need a change of government before this happens. You will be aware of this from the extensive and exhaustive correspondence on these matters with CASH, all of which are available here: [Southall Gasworks correspondence | Ealing Council](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Mason".

Cllr Peter Mason  
Leader of the Council