

Who Runs London?



The centre
for London's
built environment

A guide to public bodies in the capital

This diagram explaining the complex relationships between those who currently run London is being published at a time when the coalition government has committed to a Decentralisation and Localism Bill. A White Paper can be expected this autumn.

This is a national issue but there is a specific London agenda, given we have a directly elected Mayor and Assembly as well as 33 local authorities. Already we know that some regional agencies, like GOL and the LDA, will go and others, such as Think London and Visit London, may either be merged or have their accountability moved.

That is why LCA and NLA, with some help from Tony Travers of the LSE, have produced this visual guide about public bodies in London, many of which were created as a result of the Greater London Authority Act in 1999, the last major piece of devolution legislation in the capital. It highlights many of the key areas of responsibility and graphically presents the relationship between central, regional and local government. It is indicative only, to prompt debate, and is meant to be apolitical!

We have also provided a brief glossary to give a short explanation and reference point for each organisation.

We would welcome comments about this chart and will keep this on display at the NLA until the end of September.

Do you think these structures work? How would you like it to change? Please post your comments here at NLA and we will pass them onto the Mayor.

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London Communications Agency is an award winning specialist consultancy focusing on London and London issues. Our team brings together talented professionals with experience of journalism, politics, business and government. Everything we do is informed by in depth knowledge and understanding of the capital.

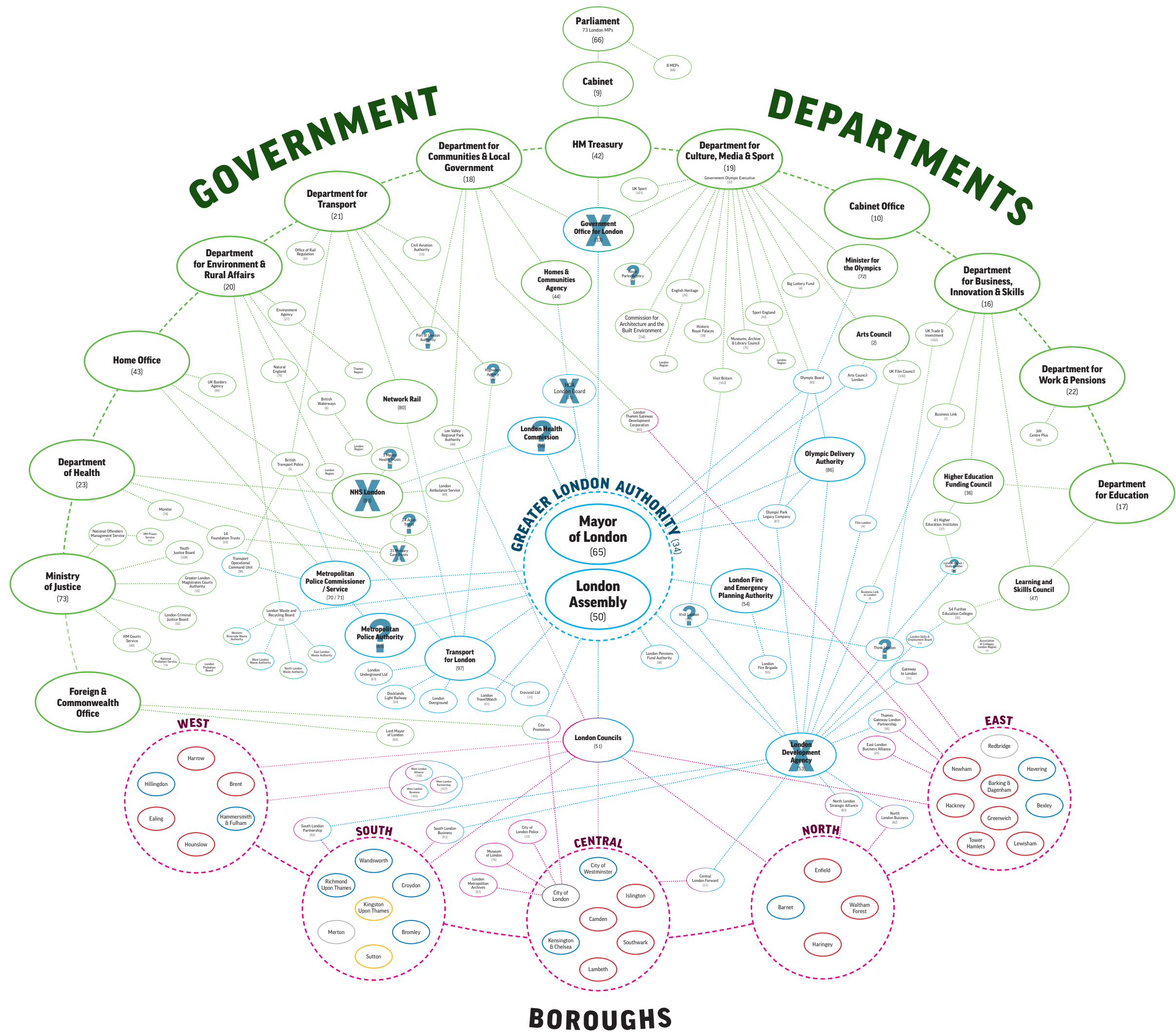
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NLA - The centre for London's built environment. The NLA programme of exhibitions, events and publications brings together leading professionals in the public and private sector, politicians and the general public, to share knowledge and identify the challenges and opportunities for the capital's built environment.

The NLA galleries, which feature the Pipers Central London model, are open to the public 6 days a week and attract over 2500 visitors from London and abroad each week.

The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT
020 7636 4044 newlondonarchitecture.org

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1. Acute NHS Trusts

There are 24 Acute Trusts in London, which make sure that the hospitals they manage provide high-quality healthcare and spend their money efficiently. They also decide on a strategy for how the hospital will develop, so that services improve. Acute Trusts employ a large part of the NHS workforce. [nhs.uk/NHSEngland/aboutnhs](https://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/aboutnhs)

2. Arts Council

The national funding body for the arts in England. It distributes money from central government and from the National Lottery. There is a separate body with responsibility for London, Arts Council London. [artscouncil.org.uk](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

3. Association of Colleges – London Region

This organisation aims to extend access to Further and Adult Education in London and represents the 54 Further and Adult Education and sixth form colleges across London. [londoncolleges.com](https://www.londoncolleges.com)

4. Big Lottery Fund

This is a grant-making body created to administer the funding of good causes following the creation of the National Lottery. It has an annual expenditure of £630 million. There is a dedicated London region. [biglotteryfund.org.uk](https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

5. British Transport Police

The national police force for the railways providing a service to rail operators, their staff and passengers. There are three areas: London North, London South and a division that polices the Underground. [btp.police.uk](https://www.btp.police.uk)

6. British Waterways

A statutory corporation wholly owned by government. It is the navigation authority for most canals and also some rivers and docks. It has a London region. [britishwaterways.co.uk](https://www.britishwaterways.co.uk)

7. Business Link

The government's support service for all businesses. Delivered by 45 county-based Business Link Operators, funded by BERR and managed by the nine Regional Development Agencies. [businesslink.gov.uk](https://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

8. Business Link in London

The regional arm of Business Link, operated by Serco and managed by the London Development Agency. It offers a free business advisory service available to anyone starting or running a small or medium sized business. [blondon.co.uk](https://www.blondon.co.uk)

9. Cabinet

The Cabinet is a formal body composed of the most senior government ministers chosen by the Prime Minister. Members of the Cabinet are collectively responsible for all government policy. In theory, the Prime Minister is first among equals. [number10.gov.uk/history-and-tour/cabinet](https://www.number10.gov.uk/history-and-tour/cabinet)

10. Cabinet Office

This government department is responsible for supporting the Prime Minister and Cabinet. There are about 1,000 members of staff, mainly based in Whitehall. [cabinetoffice.gov.uk](https://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

11. Central London Forward

A borough-led sub-regional partnership for central London. It brings together six boroughs: Camden, City of London, City of Westminster, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea and Southwark. [centrallondonforward.gov.uk](https://www.centrallondonforward.gov.uk)

12. City of London Police

This police force is responsible for the safety of everyone in London's 'Square Mile' - 6,600 residents and up to 350,000 daily workers, as well as related issues such as economic crime and counter-terrorism. [cityoflondon.police.uk](https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk)

13. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

A public corporation which oversees and regulates all aspects of aviation in the United Kingdom. London is serviced by five major airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, City and Stansted) and three smaller ones (Ashford, Biggin Hill and Southend). [caa.co.uk](https://www.caa.co.uk)

14. Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment (CABE)

Funded by DCMS & DCLG, CABE is the government's adviser on architecture, urban design and public space. Its job is to influence and inspire the people making decisions about the built environment. [cabe.org.uk](https://www.cabe.org.uk)

15. Crossrail Ltd (CRL)

CRL is the company responsible for creating Crossrail. It is fully owned by TfL. Crossrail will run 118 km from Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west, through 21 km tunnels under central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east. [crossrail.co.uk](https://www.crossrail.co.uk)

16. Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

BIS has a wide range of responsibilities including enterprise, science and research, business and training. [bis.gov.uk](https://www.bis.gov.uk)

17. Department for Education

Recently renamed again, it is responsible for young people, as well as schools, apprenticeships and training. [education.gov.uk](https://www.education.gov.uk)

18. Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)

It sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue. It also has responsibility for race equality and for building regulations, fire safety and before fire safety. [communities.gov.uk](https://www.communities.gov.uk)

19. Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)

Its remit includes arts, culture, sport (including the Olympics), tourism and the National Lottery. It also has responsibility for broadcasting and the BBC and has joint responsibility with BIS for the creative industries. [culture.gov.uk](https://www.culture.gov.uk)

20. Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

This department is responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities. [defra.gov.uk](https://www.defra.gov.uk)

21. Department for Transport (DfT)

This government department is responsible for the English transport network. [dft.gov.uk](https://www.dft.gov.uk)

22. Department for Work and Pensions

It is responsible for developing and implementing strategies aimed at people who receive benefit, need help to get into work or are disabled, as well as older people and people who get the state pension. [dwp.gov.uk](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

23. Department of Health (DoH)

It is responsible for government policy on health, social care and the National Health Service. [dh.gov.uk](https://www.dh.gov.uk)

24. Docklands Light Railway (DLR)

A light rail system that opened in 1987. The DLR is operated and maintained by Serco and the franchise is due to expire in April 2013. It carries over 67 million passengers a year. [tfl.gov.uk/dlr](https://www.tfl.gov.uk/dlr)

25. East London Business Alliance (ELBA)

A sub-regional partnership for East London with a strong private sector and community focus. It operates in Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham and some of the Thames Gateway. [legacy2020.org](https://www.legacy2020.org)

26. English Heritage

It promotes the preservation of ancient monuments, historic buildings and conservation areas. There is a Thames Region of English Heritage, which has responsibility for London issues. [english-heritage.org.uk](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

27. Environment Agency

A non-departmental public body which enhances and protects the environment from issues such as flood or pollution. There is a Thames Region of the Environment Agency that covers the London area. [environment-agency.gov.uk](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

28. Film London

This body supports and promotes London as an international film-making hub, supported by the UK Film Council and the LDA. [film london.org.uk](https://www.film london.org.uk)

29. Foundation Trusts

There are 14 healthcare Foundation Trusts in London, which have been created to devolve decision-making to local organisations. They provide and develop services for NHS patients. [dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Secondarycare/NHSfoundationtrust/DH_072543](https://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Secondarycare/NHSfoundationtrust/DH_072543)

30. Further Education (FE) Colleges

There are 54 in London – FE includes education for people over 16 (and usually excludes universities). They are generally either sixth form colleges or a college of further education and adult education.

31. Gateway to London (GtL)

Gateway to London provides potential investors in London Thames Gateway with information and help in order to locate in the area. [gtlon.co.uk](https://www.gtlon.co.uk)

32. Government Olympic Executive (GOE)

Part of DCMS, the GOE reports through the DCMS Permanent Secretary to the Minister for the Olympics. It focuses on oversight of the Games and the 2012 legacy.

33. Government Office for London (GOL)

GOL represents central government across the capital, delivering policies and programmes for 11 central government departments and making London's case in Whitehall. [gos.gov.uk/gol](https://www.gos.gov.uk/gol)

34. Greater London Authority (GLA)

The GLA is the city-wide governing body for London. It consists of a directly-elected executive Mayor of London and an elected 25-member London Assembly with scrutiny powers. [london.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)

35. Greater London Magistrates Courts Authority

All magistrates courts in London are the responsibility of the Greater London Magistrates Court Authority.

36. Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE)

This body distributes public money for teaching and research to universities and colleges. It aims to promote high quality education and research. [hefce.ac.uk](https://www.hefce.ac.uk)

37. Higher Education Institutes

There are 41 Universities and Higher Education institutes in London. [londonhigher.ac.uk](https://www.londonhigher.ac.uk)

38. Highways Agency

An executive agency, part of the Department for Transport, which has responsibility for managing the core road network in England. [highways.gov.uk](https://www.highways.gov.uk)

39. Historic Royal Palaces (HRP)

This is an independent charity created in 1998 to manage Britain's unoccupied royal palaces: The Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace Kensington Palace, Banqueting House and Kew Palace. HRP is contracted by the DCMS to manage the palaces on The Queen's behalf. [hrp.org.uk](https://www.hrp.org.uk)

40. HM Courts Service

Its remit is to deliver justice effectively and efficiently to the public. They are responsible for managing the magistrates' courts, the Crown Court, county courts, the High Court and Court of Appeal in England and Wales. [hmcourts-service.gov.uk](https://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk)

41. HM Prison Service

This agency manages prisons in England and Wales. There are seven prisons in London: Belmarsh, Brixton, Feltham, Ham, Holloway, Pentonville and Wandsworth. [hmprisonservice.gov.uk](https://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk)

42. HM Treasury

The Treasury is the United Kingdom's economics and finance ministry. [hm-treasury.gov.uk](https://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

43. Home Office

Responsible for immigration control, security and order. Also for the police, United Kingdom Borders Agency and M15. It is also in charge of government policy on security-related issues such as drugs, counter-terrorism and ID cards. [homeoffice.gov.uk](https://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

44. Homes & Communities Agency (HCA)

The national housing and regeneration agency for England, with an annual investment budget of £8.4bn until 2011 through the National Affordable Housing Programme. The HCA was formed on 1 December 2008 along with the Tenant Services Authority, the regulatory body for Registered Social Landlords. [homesandcommunities.co.uk](https://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk)

45. Homes & Communities Agency London Board

It oversees and directs the investment programme of the HCA in London, within the scheme set by the HCA Board. It is chaired by the Mayor of London. [homesandcommunities.co.uk/london](https://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/london)

46. Job Centre Plus

The government's employment agency facility and the social security office for working-age people in Great Britain. [jobcentreplus.gov.uk](https://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

47. Learning & Skills Council (LSC)

A body responsible for planning and funding education and training for everyone in England other than those in universities. There are nine regional offices overseeing the work of local partnership teams throughout the country. [lsc.gov.uk](https://www.lsc.gov.uk)

48. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA)

An independent statutory public authority established by an Act of Parliament. The Park stretches 26 miles along the banks of the River Lee, from Ware in Hertfordshire to the Thames at East India Dock Basin. [leevalleypark.org.uk](https://www.leevalleypark.org.uk)

49. London Ambulance Service (LAS)

One of 12 Ambulance Trusts which receives direct government funding for its role. It is the only London-wide NHS Trust. [londonambulance.nhs.uk](https://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk)

50. London Assembly

This body has the power, with a two-thirds majority, to amend the Mayor's annual budget. It is also able to investigate other issues of importance to Londoners, publish its findings and recommendations, and make proposals to the Mayor. [london.gov.uk/assembly](https://www.london.gov.uk/assembly)

51. London Councils

A cross-party organisation, funded and run by all London authorities to work on their behalf. It acts as the employers' organisation for 32 of London's boroughs. [londoncouncils.gov.uk](https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk)

52. London Criminal Justice Board

This Board works with the agencies that make up the Criminal Justice System – the police, the courts, victim support, the probation service, youth justice services and the prisons – to ensure that anyone who has anything to do with the system in London experiences an effective and responsive service. [lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/london/home.html](https://www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/london/home.html)

53. London Development Agency (LDA)

The Regional Development Agency for Greater London. It is a functional body of the Greater London Authority and is responsible for London's sustainable economic growth. [lda.gov.uk](https://www.lda.gov.uk)

54. London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)

Its principal purpose is to run the London Fire Brigade. It makes decisions on key matters such as strategy, policy and the Brigade's budget. The 17 members of LFEPA are appointed by the Mayor of London. [london-fire.gov.uk/FireAuthority.asp](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/FireAuthority.asp)

55. London Fire Brigade

The statutory fire and rescue service for London. It is the third-largest fire service in the world with nearly 7,000 staff, of which 5,800 are operational firefighters and officers. [london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk)

56. London Health Commision

The London Health Commision works in partnership with agencies across the capital to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and well being of all Londoners. [london.gov.uk/lhc](https://www.london.gov.uk/lhc)

57. London Metropolitan Archives

This body holds records for many religious, public, business, local authority and other London organisations. [cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma](https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma)

58. London Pensions Fund Authority

A pension fund administration organisation that maintains its own fund and is a key figure in administering the Local Government Pension Scheme. [lpfa.org.uk](https://www.lpfa.org.uk)

59. London Skills & Employment Board

This body was established to provide leadership in improving adult skills and employment in London. It is chaired by the Mayor of London. [london.gov.uk/lseb](https://www.london.gov.uk/lseb)

60. London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC)

This body has a statutory remit to regenerate and economically develop its area, which covers the Lower Lea Valley and the London Riverside region. [ltgdic.org.uk](https://www.ltgdic.org.uk)

61. London TravelWatch

The official watchdog organisation, which represents the interests of transport users in and around the capital. It is sponsored by the London Assembly. [londontravelwatch.org.uk](https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk)

62. London Waste & Recycling Board

The Mayor chairs this body, which works with boroughs to boost recycling in the capital and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. [lwarb.gov.uk](https://www.lwarb.gov.uk)

63. London Underground (LUL)

LUL operates the entire underground network. Since 2003 LUL has been a wholly owned subsidiary of Transport for London. [thetube.com](https://www.thetube.com)

64. Lord Mayor

As the head of the City of London Corporation, the Lord Mayor promotes the UK financial services industry both domestically and overseas. The Lord Mayor, who also supports the Corporation's other responsibilities including providing local services, is elected for a one year term and the position is unpaid and apolitical. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lordmayor

65. Mayor of London

Directly-elected by London residents, the Mayor sets a vision for the capital and has a statutory requirement to produce strategies on how it will be achieved. He has planning powers as well as responsibility for setting the budget for policing, transport, economic development and fire and emergency planning. He is an ambassador and champion for London on a national and international stage. [london.gov.uk/mayor](https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor)

66. Members of Parliament (MPs)

There are now 73 London MPs following the 6 May election – 38 Labour, 28 Conservative and seven Liberal Democrats. [parliament.uk/directories](https://www.parliament.uk/directories)

67. Mental Health Trusts

There are three in London, which provide health and social care services for people with mental health problems.

68. MEPs

There are eight Members of the European Parliament. Their job is to represent London interests in Europe. There are three Conservative, two Labour and one Lib Dem, Green and UKIP member. [europarl.org.uk/section/list-region/london](https://www.europarl.org.uk/section/list-region/london)

69. Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA)

The police authority responsible for supervising the Metropolitan Police Service. It consists of 23 members. A Deputy Mayor chairs the Authority. [mpa.gov.uk](https://www.mpa.gov.uk)

70. Metropolitan Police Commissioner

The Commissioner is regarded as the leading British Police officer in the United Kingdom and heads the Metropolitan Police Service. [met.police.uk/about](https://www.met.police.uk/about)

71. Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

The territorial police force responsible for law enforcement within Greater London, excluding the City of London. [met.police.uk](https://www.met.police.uk)

72. Minister for the Olympics

Responsible for overseeing the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as the lasting legacy.

73. Ministry of Justice

Government department responsible for criminal justice policy, sentencing policy, probation, prisons and prevention of re-offending. [justice.gov.uk](https://www.justice.gov.uk)

74. Monitor

Monitor is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts. [monitor-nhsft.gov.uk](https://www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk)

75. Museums, Archive & Library Council

This national body promotes best practice in museums, libraries and archives. [mla.gov.uk](https://www.mla.gov.uk)

76. Museum of London

This is one of the world's largest urban history museums and cares for over two million objects in its collection. It is jointly funded by the City of London and the GLA. [museumoflondon.org.uk](https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

77. National Offenders Management Service

A department of the Ministry of Justice responsible for the correctional services. [justice.gov.uk/about/noms.htm](https://www.justice.gov.uk/about/noms.htm)

78. National Probation Service

This service exists to minimise the impact of crime on communities and in particular, to support those who have been affected by crime. They also have a role to rehabilitate offenders. There is also a London Probation Board. [probation.homeoffice.gov.uk](https://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk)

79. Natural England

The government's advisor on the natural environment. It provides practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth. There is a London Region which comprises the London boroughs. [naturalengland.org.uk](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

80. Network Rail

Network Rail owns and operates the fixed infrastructure assets of the British railway system. [networkrail.co.uk](https://www.networkrail.co.uk)

81. NHS London

A strategic health authority of the National Health Service. It carries out policy set by the DoH at a regional level. Each SHA area contains various NHS trusts which take responsibility for running or commissioning local NHS services. [london.nhs.uk](https://www.london.nhs.uk)

82. North London Business

This is a business-led sub regional partnership that is the official agency for economic development within North London. [northlondon.org.uk](https://www.northlondon.org.uk)

83. North London Strategic Alliance

It is the sub-regional strategic partnership for North London and brings together public, private and voluntary organisations. Its borough members are Barnet, Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest. [nlsa.org.uk](https://www.nlsa.org.uk)

84. Office of Rail Regulation

A statutory board which is the combined economic and safety regulatory authority for the railway network. It is operationally independent of central government. [rail-reg.gov.uk](https://www.rail-reg.gov.uk)

85. Olympic Board

The Olympic Board provides oversight, strategic coordination and monitoring of the entire 2012 Games project, ensuring the delivery and a sustainable legacy from the Games.

86. Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)

The government body responsible for delivering new venues, transport and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will hand the sites over to LOCOG, a private company, in 2011 and LOCOG will run them during the Games. [london-2012.co.uk/ODA](https://www.london-2012.co.uk/ODA)

87. Olympic Park Legacy Company

This is the public sector, not-for-profit organisation responsible for the long-term planning, development, management and maintenance of the Olympic Park and its facilities after the London 2012 Games. [legacycompany.co.uk](https://www.legacycompany.co.uk)

88. Port of London Authority (PLA)

A public trust established in 1908 by the Port of London Act, whose responsibility is for the Tideway of the River Thames. [pla.co.uk](https://www.pla.co.uk)

89. Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)

A type of NHS trust that provides primary and community services or commissions them from other providers. PCTs have their own budgets and priorities. They provide funding for GPs and medical prescriptions; they also commission hospital and mental health services. There are 31 in London. [london.nhs.uk/your-nhs-in-london](https://www.london.nhs.uk/your-nhs-in-london)

90. Royal Parks Agency

It manages and conserves: Bushy Park, Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park (and Primrose Hill), Richmond Park, St James's Park. [royalparks.org.uk](https://www.royalparks.org.uk)

91. South London Business

This is a business led sub-regional partnership. Its aim is "to help South London prosper by representing and promoting business' interests to local, regional and central government". [southlondonbusiness.co.uk](https://www.southlondonbusiness.co.uk)

92. South London Partnership

A borough-focused sub-regional partnership – it works with seven boroughs: Bromley, Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth, as well as other strategic partners. [southlondonpartnership.co.uk](https://www.southlondonpartnership.co.uk)

93. Sport England

Responsible for delivering the government's sporting objectives in order to encourage greater participation in sport and the development of grassroots sport. There is a London division which works to promote and invest in sport, specifically in the region. [sportengland.org](https://www.sportengland.org)

94. London Higher / Study London

London Higher represents the capital's higher education institutions. Its Study London division promotes London as an educational destination. [studylondon.ac.uk](https://www.studylondon.ac.uk)

95. Thames Gateway London Partnership (TGLP)

A sub-regional partnership, supported by 12 boroughs in the Thames Gateway London area, five universities, the local Learning and Skills Council and the strategic health organisation. [thames-gateway.org.uk](https://www.thames-gateway.org.uk)