# Sir Sadiq Khan's pay rise sparks outrage amid London’s crisis



Sir Sadiq Khan’s recent pay rise has sparked widespread outrage among Londoners, fitting neatly into the broader pattern of self-serving perks and wasteful expenditure that typify his administration. Despite the city’s rising crime rates and soaring living costs, Khan’s salary now surpasses that of the Prime Minister himself, at a time when London’s working families are struggling to make ends meet. This increase — part of an automatic adjustment linked to the local government pay settlement — simply highlights Khan’s refusal to prioritize the needs of ordinary Londoners over his own privileged status.

Rather than focusing on the pressing issues that affect everyday constituents, Khan chooses to reward himself with a pay hike that pushes him into the top salary brackets for politicians across the country. Meanwhile, his government’s expansion — now boasting over 1,600 staff members — continues unabated, despite growing concerns about the efficiency and accountability of the mayor’s office. Critics have rightly condemned this bloated workforce as a sign of failed leadership that prefers administrative excess over delivering tangible results for Londoners suffering from crime, housing shortages, and declining public services.

It’s revealing that the number of city hall and TfL officials earning over £100,000 has nearly doubled under Khan’s watch, a clear signal of the cosy, insider culture he has fostered. Senior officials, including his top advisors, are reaping substantial salary hikes, all funded by taxpayers who are desperate for better services but instead see their money funnelled into higher wages for a privileged few. Meanwhile, the recent 3.4% pay rise for tube drivers — granted after strikes and union pressure — epitomizes the culture of excessive public sector pay that is driving up costs and exposing London to further inflationary pressures.

This pattern of self-enrichment and lavish spending comes at a time when the city faces real crises. From rising violent crime to soaring housing prices and declining street safety, Londoners are paying the price for Khan’s failure to tackle the fundamentals. Yet, rather than addressing these critical issues, the administration continues to serve its own interests, increasing salaries and expanding staff at a time when scrupulous budget management is desperately needed.

Public discontent is palpable, with more than 220,000 overwhelmingly opposing Khan’s knighthood — a symbol of his disconnected leadership and misplaced priorities. His rise to the top of London politics, marked by expensive salaries and bloated bureaucracy, demonstrates a governance model that is out of touch with the realities faced by ordinary people. It’s clear that London's leadership needs a serious rethink, prioritizing public safety, affordable housing, and responsible management over gilded perks and self-serving expansion. If the city’s future is to be turned around, it’s high time to root out this culture of excess and put London’s residents first.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109350/poll-sadiq-khan-earn-more-starmer> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/sadiq-khan-mayor-pay-rise-prime-minister-b1199426.html> - In December 2024, London Mayor Sadiq Khan received a £4,025 pay rise, increasing his annual salary to £165,001. This adjustment brought his earnings close to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's reported salary of £166,786. The pay rise followed an independent review and was part of a broader 2.5% increase for London Assembly members, aligning with the local government pay settlement. The review recommended that the mayor's salary remain lower than the total base pay of the UK Prime Minister, including their role as an MP. The next review is scheduled for 2028.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/18/city-hall-tfl-officials-salary-increases-sadiq-khan/> - Under Mayor Sadiq Khan's leadership, the number of City Hall and Transport for London (TfL) officials earning over £100,000 nearly doubled, rising from 655 in 2018-19 to 1,146 in 2022-23. The TaxPayers' Alliance highlighted this surge, with two-thirds of these high earners working for TfL. Critics, including Susan Hall, accused Khan of turning City Hall into a 'gravy train,' especially as he proposed increasing council tax by nearly £40 for a second consecutive year, citing insufficient government funding.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/city-hall-pay-rises-salaries-sadiq-khan-aides-gla-tfl-b1236909.html> - In July 2025, it was revealed that several of Mayor Sadiq Khan's top aides received pay rises, elevating their salaries above £150,000. The mayor's chief of staff, David Bellamy, saw his salary increase to £159,827. The deputy mayors and other senior staff also received 2.5% annual increases. Despite these adjustments, Mayor Khan had yet to decide on his own salary for the current financial year. The pay rises were part of a broader trend of salary increases within City Hall and TfL.
5. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/sadiq-khan-london-tube-strike-pay-rise> - In September 2025, following a week of strikes, Mayor Sadiq Khan agreed to a 'no conditions' pay offer for tube drivers, responding to trade union demands for a 3.4% wage increase. This would raise the average tube worker's salary to £38,702, 71% higher than the national average. Critics argued that this decision, made under union pressure, could lead to increased costs for Londoners and set a precedent for future negotiations.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/sadiq-khan-pay-rise-city-hall-rishi-sunak-mayor-london-b1156899.html> - In May 2024, it was reported that Mayor Sadiq Khan's salary increased by over £6,000 to £160,976, surpassing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's declared earnings of £139,477. The pay rise was part of a broader 4.5% increase for deputy mayors and other senior staff. The decision followed an independent review and was in line with the local government pay settlement. The review also recommended aligning the salaries of mayoral directors with those of deputy mayors.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/sadiq-khan-salary-increases-london-mayor-wages-keir-starmer-prime-minister-b1247967.html> - In September 2025, it was revealed that Mayor Sadiq Khan's salary had increased to £170,282, making him the highest-paid politician in the UK at that time. This £5,281 pay rise brought his earnings above Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's reported salary of £169,344. The increase was linked to the local government settlement and followed recommendations from an independent panel. Additionally, the number of staff at City Hall had grown to a record 1,615 people, including 90 agency staff.