

'What do you mean?!' Khan won't say if grooming gangs roam London in heated City Hall exchange

I'm not the only one sure that something nasty must be happening in London, a city of 8 million people over half of whom are of immigrant ethnic background. Readers might remember my previous posts on the subject, in [2019](#) and here in [2023](#).

That girls reported being groomed in the McDonalds restaurant in Stratford near the Olympic park and then being raped by the men who 'befriended' them. So far as anybody can find out no prosecutions were ever brought. London assembly members Peter Whittle and David Kurten both asked questions of Sadiq Khan and never got a proper answer. Operation Grandbye was absorbed in a general 'safe cities' initiative.

Today the Conservative candidate for London Mayor at the last election, Susan Hall, tackled Sadiq Khan directly, for the second time this month, ([earlier questions here](#)) as reported by [GB News](#)



Sir Sadiq Khan was involved in a heated City Hall exchange earlier today after refusing to answer if he was aware of any grooming gangs operating in London.

The Mayor faced questions from former London Tory leader Susan Hall, who demanded to know if he was aware of any gangs operating in the capital.

But when pressed, Khan asked: “Can she define what she means by that?”

Hall referred to the abuse gangs in areas such as Rotherham and Bradford, but again Khan asked: “What does she mean by that?”

He again asked Hall to “spell it out” after another explanation of group localised child sexual exploitation.

Hall said that they were “the sort of gangs that groom young girls at a young age for sex. How much clearer do you want me to be?”

Reacting to the spat, Hall told GB News: “Everyone across this country knows what the grooming gangs are, and I don’t believe Khan for one minute when he says it’s unclear. Young girls were hopelessly abused, and may yet still be suffering

abuse if these gangs continue to operate. This isn't about politics – we need answers, and we need them now. Pathetically shirking his responsibilities is not going to cut it. Khan dodged the questions today, he needs to come to the assembly and answer them – and put the concerns of Londoners at ease.”

In my opinion his body language was uncomfortable and convinced me that he knows about something bigger than the [one-on-one rapes](#) of younger teenage girls that do [sometimes get reported](#), and the official line is to downplay any bigger organised crimes. Otherwise why not say something like, “thankfully no, although the frequent knife fights and the danger posed by ‘County Lines’ drug gangs remain a great concern.”

Watch the weasel wriggle here.

NEW [@GBNEWS](#): Sadiq Khan asks Tories to ‘define’ grooming gangs as he is accused of dodging questions on the abuse scandal pic.twitter.com/XJvN7hX1Is

– Charlie Peters (@CDP1882) [January 16, 2025](#)

Susan Hall [said later](#) “Everyone across this country knows what the grooming gangs are, and I don't believe Khan for one minute when he says it's unclear. Young girls were hopelessly abused, and may yet still be suffering abuse if these gangs continue to operate. This isn't about politics – we need answers, and we need them now. Pathetically shirking his responsibilities is not going to cut it. Khan dodged the questions today, he needs to come to the assembly and answer them – and put the concerns of Londoners at ease.”

Some believe Khan was trying to get Mrs Hall to specify ‘Muslim’ or ‘Pakistani’ or ‘Asian’ gangs, thus allowing him to dismiss her question as ‘racist’; but she didn't rise to his

bait.

I don't suppose [Shaun Bailey \(now Lord Bailey\)](#) the previous Conservative candidate will get an answer to his [recent letter](#) to the Mayor on the same subject either.



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Lord Bailey of Paddington AM Londonwide Assembly Member



Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London E16 1ZE

Our Ref: SB/MRD/AW

Date: 9 January 2025

Sent by email: mayor@london.gov.uk

Dear Sir Sadiq,

Last night in Parliament, your Labour colleagues voted against a full national inquiry into the rape grooming gang scandal.

Given that there are more than fifty areas that have been identified as locations in which the systemic rape of young children by grooming gangs took place, there is a strong possibility that this criminality also occurred in London.

The most recent independent inquiry into child sexual abuse – the Jay report – only examined six towns. None were in London. Similarly, no local inquiries have taken place across any part of London, leaving a significant number of unanswered questions around the scale of this scandal in the capital.

When these crimes took place, concerns around 'community relations' adversely affected or even prevented investigations, leaving victims and their families without the justice they deserved. Over many years, victims of these horrific crimes were failed by local authorities, police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service. It must not be allowed to happen again.

As London's Mayor and its Police and Crime Commissioner, I am asking you to consider how this issue can be investigated in London in the absence of a full national inquiry.

The Labour government have stated that inquiries should be called at a local level in place of a national investigation. I am asking you, therefore, to support a London-level inquiry and consider how City Hall and the Greater London Authority (GLA) could deliver this.

City Hall and the GLA have significant resources available to draw conclusions from across all thirty-two of London's boroughs, making it well-placed to deliver a local-level enquiry and give victims of these horrific crimes the justice they deserve.

As a Member of the House of Lords and the London Assembly's Police and Crime Committee, I will fully support and pursue any action we can take to investigate the scale of this criminality in our city.

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Whilst the establishment of a successful grooming gang taskforce under the previous government was a step in the right direction, it is clear that in the absence of a full national inquiry, we must investigate this issue thoroughly at a London level. It is also vital that the Met and its officers have our full support in pursuing criminality wherever it is found across our city, and be confident in the application of the law.

At a time when tensions are high among our communities, a London-level enquiry would allow for the separation of fact from fiction, deliver the truth around this criminality after many years of suspicion and uncertainty, and enable victims and communities to begin moving forward from this dark stain on our history.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bailey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

