

027 London (United Kingdom)

7.6 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km ²	Density, people/km ²
London	*7,172,036	11.8%	1,579	4,542
London Metropolitan Region	**12,653,500	20.9%	8,382	1,510
United Kingdom	*58,789,194 ***60,270,708	100%	244,820	240 246

* According to the official census 2001 by National Statistics UK.

** The London Metropolitan Agglomeration used was defined by the *Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona* in their work "*Grans Aglomeracions Metropolitanas Europees*" published at *Revista Papers*, number 37. This research defines 50 European Metropolitan Regions based fixed criteria on density, conurbation and total population.

*** Estimation offered by the CIA-World Factbook for July 2004.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
London	Greater London Authority	33 Boroughs: City of London (GLA), City of Westminster, Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest and Wandsworth.
London Metropolitan Region	London Metropolitan Region	3 Regions: Greater London, South East y East of England 50 local government units in the three regions
United Kingdom	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	The United Kingdom is a unitary state that includes four constitutive nations: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. England is composed by: 9 regions 6 metropolitan counties 34 shire counties 41 unitary authorities 36 Metropolitan districts 6 Non-metropolitan districts 29 London Boroughs

3. Institutional framework and political powers

London

General Aspects

The fundamental responsibilities of the Greater London Authority (GLA) are to promote economic development, create wealth, develop the city socially and improve the environment. It thus has powers in the fields of transport, urban and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, the environment, police, emergency management, culture and health. It also exercises certain functions of a regulatory body within its territory. It works together with the boroughs in the provision of services and also controls their activities.

Mayor

Has executive power and is responsible for the political management of the Authority. Is responsible for leading the activities of the GLA in its areas of power and thus defines and co-ordinates the work areas and development strategies for the city. Is also responsible for preparing the annual budget for the GLA. To implement his or her initiatives, the Mayor should co-ordinate both with the borough councils and the public agencies. The Mayor is elected by direct public vote to serve four-year terms of office.

London Assembly

This chamber examines and oversees the actions of the Mayor. It also has the power to amend the budget prepared by the Mayor with a majority of two-thirds of the Assembly. The Assembly can investigate issues it considers important for the city, publish recommendations and make proposals directly to the Mayor. A large part of its work is done through research committees. The Assembly is currently made up of 25 members, 14 elected by simple majority vote in single-member districts. The remaining 11 are elected via a system of proportional representation for the whole of the city. The term of the members of the Assembly coincides with that of the Mayor.

Chief Executive

Supervises the public administration of the GLA and ensures it is effective and efficient.

Borough Councils

Each of the 33 boroughs of London directly provides public services such as education, housing, social services, street cleaning and maintenance, solid waste management, local urban planning, culture and recreation. However, the framework of definition of all these areas of power is defined by the government of the United Kingdom. The borough councils are funded via a direct tax on the population known as the Council Tax and through diverse funds programmed by the central government. With the Local Government Act 2000, all local authorities were forced to adopt one of the new forms of government before May 2002. The three models of government proposed were: a system with a directly elected mayor and cabinet; a system based on a council, the majority of which would vote the mayor and cabinet; and a model based on a council and chief executive. These three forms of government currently coexist in the different districts of the GLA. Up to 1,861 councillors are elected for a four-year term in the 33 boroughs. The election process for councillors is based on a simple majority system in multi-member districts.

Organisations and Companies

Association of London Government

An association committed to improving public resources in London and attracting private investment to the 33 boroughs. Works as a pressure group that articulates council demands from the central government. The main deliberative organ is a committee of 33 leaders from the boroughs.

Greater London Enterprise (GLE)

The GLE is the city's economic development company and its ownership corresponds to the 33 boroughs. Operates as a private company and thus does not receive public financial support. Activity depends on commercial results and knowledge about the economic regeneration of the city in a market environment. It is an influential agent both in the formulation of new local public policies and the development of new solutions in the sphere of local development.

Transport for London

This is an organisation that depends on the GLA and is responsible for the planning and management of the capital's integrated transport system. The main function is to implement the transport strategy for London and manage the city's transport services. It controls the bus network, underground system, the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and London Trams, river transport services and the Victoria bus station. Also responsible for traffic management in a network of 580 km of urban roads and the traffic light system. Transport for London is managed by a council appointed by the Mayor, who chairs the council.

London Development Agency

An agency that depends on the GLA and works directly on the economic development of the city with the aim of sustaining and improving London's role as an international business centre and thus boost its economic opportunities.

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

An organisation under the control of the GLA responsible for fire control and prevention and also planning responses to possible emergencies.

London Metropolitan Region

We were unable to identify an institution of a metropolitan sphere whose area of action includes all of the territory of the London Metropolitan Region. The GLA is normally considered the metropolitan authority for London, but this is only in the centre of the region, which also extends to the southeast and east.

United Kingdom

King or Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The monarch is the lifelong, hereditary head of state. He or she usually acts in accordance with the decisions taken by the government, although the monarch is formally responsible for appointing the Prime Minister. Symbolic functions include sanctioning laws, signing the highest State documents and calling and dissolving the sessions of Parliament.

Prime Minister

Under the PM's leadership, the government determines and leads the policies of the State. The PM leads governmental action and is responsible for the execution of laws and thus responds for the government's actions before the parliament. The PM is formally appointed by the monarch, although he or she requires the support of the majority of the House of Commons to carry out functions. The PM can shorten the length of the sessions of Parliament.

Parliament

Bicameral organ composed of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The basic function of the House of Commons is to propose, approve and amend existing legislation. The 569 MPs are elected in single-member districts under a simple majority system to serve a maximum term of four years.

In general, the House of Lords has similar functions to the Commons, as it can also legislate, debate and question the executive. There are two important exceptions: its members do not represent districts and do not participate in fiscal and financial legislation. The role of the House of Lords is considered complementary to that of the Commons and is a chamber of review. The 707 lords are lifelong positions. There are three types of members: institutional (law lords and members of the Church of England), hereditary peers and peers appointed for their life's work upon the proposal of the government.

Government Office for London

An agency that represents the British government and whose mission is to ensure that national policies aimed at the City of London are duly implemented. Works together with various public and private organisations to promote government policies and help achieve their goals. Also acts as a representative of London's interests within the central government.

4. Relevant websites and online documents

Greater London Authority: <http://www.london.gov.uk>

Transport for London: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/>

Association of London Government: <http://www.alg.gov.uk>

Greater London Enterprise (GLE): <http://www.gle.co.uk/>

Government Office for London: <http://www.go-london.gov.uk>

The Official Website of the British Monarchy: <http://www.royal.gov.uk>

The United Kingdom Parliament: <http://www.parliament.uk>

National Statistics UK: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

The Electoral Commission: <http://www.electoralcommission.gov.uk>

Local Authorities' Gateway <http://local.gov.uk/>

Directgov: <http://www.direct.gov.uk>

Documents:

Greater London Authority Act 1999 <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1999/19990029.htm>

City of London (Ward Elections) Act 2002.

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/locact02/20020006.htm>