

# Office politics: London and the rise of home working

Chair | Evan Davis, Journalist

**18:00 – 18:30** | Arrival and welcome

**18:30 – 18:45** | Opening remarks and presentation

**18:45 – 19:30** | Panel discussion

**19:30 – 20:00** | Networking reception

# Opening remarks and presentation

18:30 – 18:45

- **Kate Hart | Chief Executive, EC BID**
- **Presenter: Paul Swinney | Director of Policy & Research, Centre for Cities**

# Office Politics

## London and the rise of home working

24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 | 18.30 – 18.45

**Paul Swinney**


Director of Policy and Research | Centre for Cities

**#OfficePolitics**

**@centreforcities | @paul\_swinney**








# Predictions of the death of the office were widespread in 2020



BUSINESS COMMENT



## In the new world of remote work, we will be lords of our own time

Philip Rodney | Monday April 13 2020, 12:01am, The Times

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If you are old enough to remember 1977 and/or are, like me, a *Doctor Who* nerd, you might have watched *The Invisible Enemy*, featuring the fourth and best Doctor, played by Tom Baker (the two Scottish Doctors, David Tennant and Peter Capaldi, are honourable runners-up.) Here's a brief synopsis gleaned from various fansites. The Tardis is permeated by the Swarm, a sentient virus designed to spread itself across the universe. The Doctor is infected by its nucleus. The time machine then materialises on Titan, one of the moons of Saturn, where the occupants of a refuelling station have also succumbed.

The Doctor collapses, but manages to communicate the co-ordinates of a local hospital asteroid to Leela, his companion. At the Bi-Al Foundation, located on the asteroid, Professor Marius clones the two time travellers, miniaturises the clones using the relative dimensional stabiliser from the Tardis and then injects them into the Doctor's body in the hope that they can find and destroy the nucleus. Still with



## Why remote working will be the new normal, even after COVID-19

By EY Belgium  
Multidisciplinary professional services organisation

6 minute read  
8 Apr 2020

What are the challenges of remote working and how should companies address them during COVID-19? And what after the crisis? Is remote working here to stay?

**C** COVID-19 forced companies to switch to remote working very quickly. Although this migration went reasonably well in a short period of time, there are a few pitfalls that business managers need to be aware of. After

## Forbes

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EDITORS' PICK

# The Remote Office Is The New Normal: 3 Reasons Leaders Are Shifting Strategy

Dr. Jason Wingard Senior Contributor @  
*Global thought leader on leadership development and the future of work*

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Jun 25, 2020, 11:40am EDT



## The office is dead, according to most startup founders

A recent survey of more than 500 VC-funded founders said they weren't in a hurry to return their people to offices.



[Photo: Drew Beamer/Unsplash]

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# Barclays boss: Big offices 'may be a thing of the past'

29 April 2020 · Comments



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genie out of the bottle home working wfh

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- Forbes**  
<https://www.forbes.com/service/news/2020/08/13/>  
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13 Aug 2020 — The pandemic is forcing us to rethink our relationship to the workplace. Seen through this lens, the genie has unleashed creativity, innovation, ...
- Business MK**  
<https://businessmk.co.uk/information-technology/>  
**The genie's out of the bottle: Working from home is here to stay ...**  
The genie's out of the bottle. Working from home is here to stay, says IT boss - 52% of workers expect to work flexibly between the office and home. - Only 17% ...
- TelecomTV**  
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**COVID released the hybrid-working genie – now it won't get ...**  
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- Upstart Group**  
<https://upstartgroup.com/blog/>  
**The Genie is Out of the Bottle: Working From Home (WFH)**  
If the position is required to work from home, the company may have to consider reimbursing for all expenses required to perform business, such as a cell phone, ...
- LinkedIn**  
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/work-from-home-genie/>  
**The Work-From-Home Genie Is Out of the Bottle**  
13 Apr 2020 — Crises have a way of shifting priorities, fast. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, companies that had expected their workers to show up at a ...



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## 'Five-day office week will become the norm again'

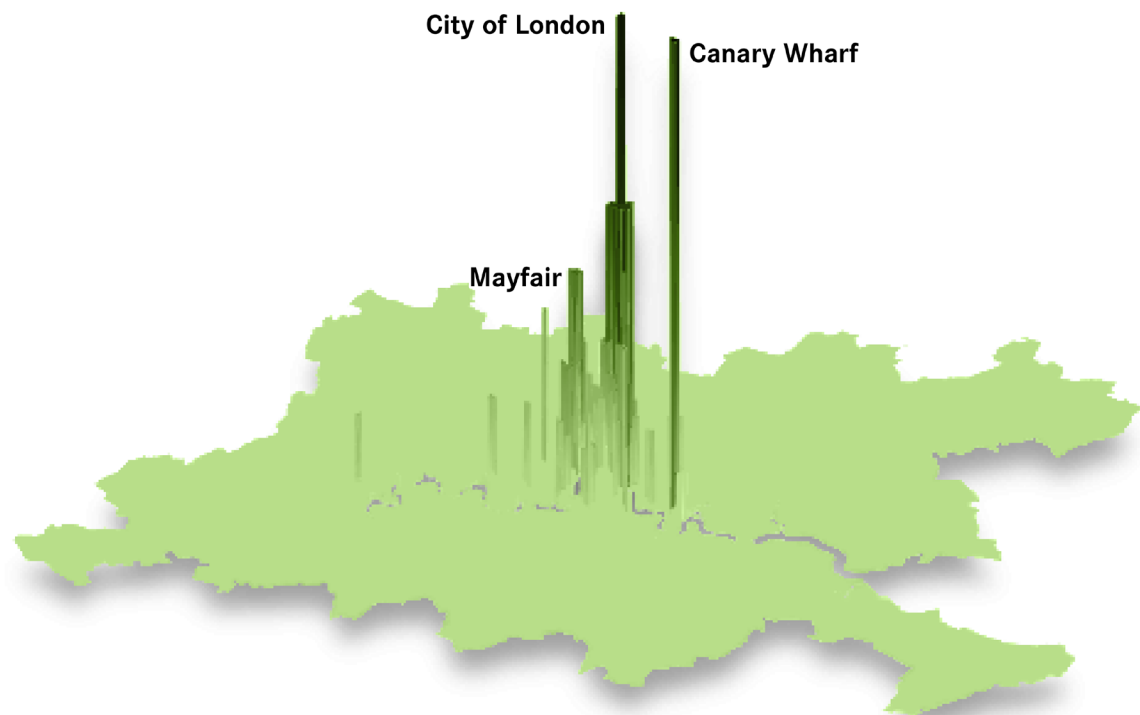
8 June 2021 · [Comments](#)

 **Coronavirus pandemic**

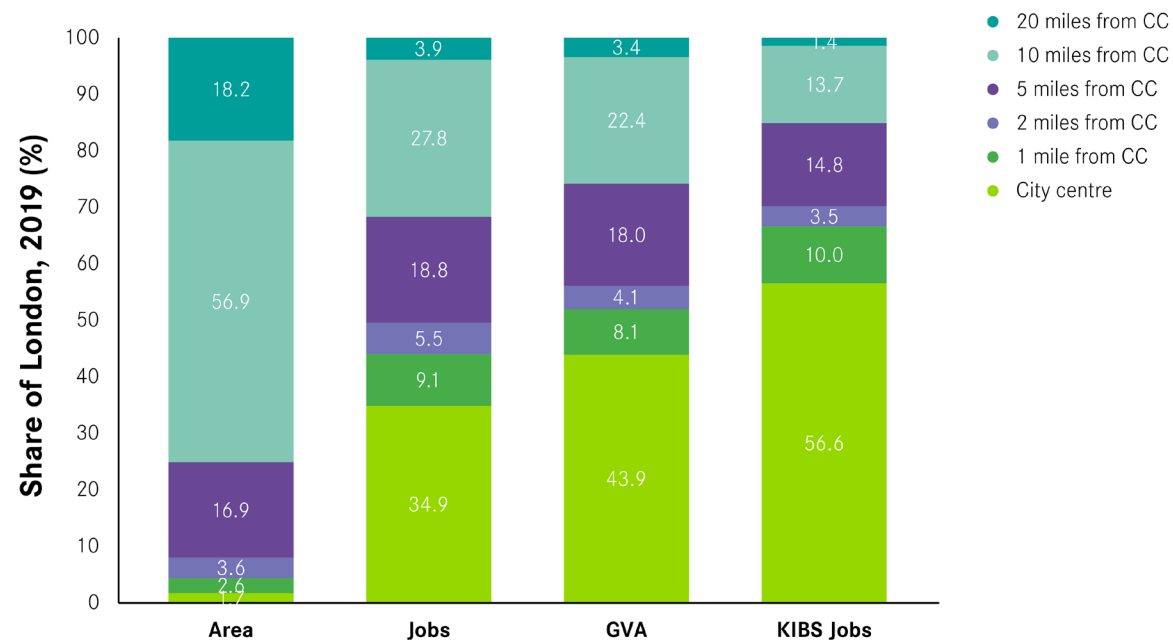


# London's economy has long been concentrated in its centre

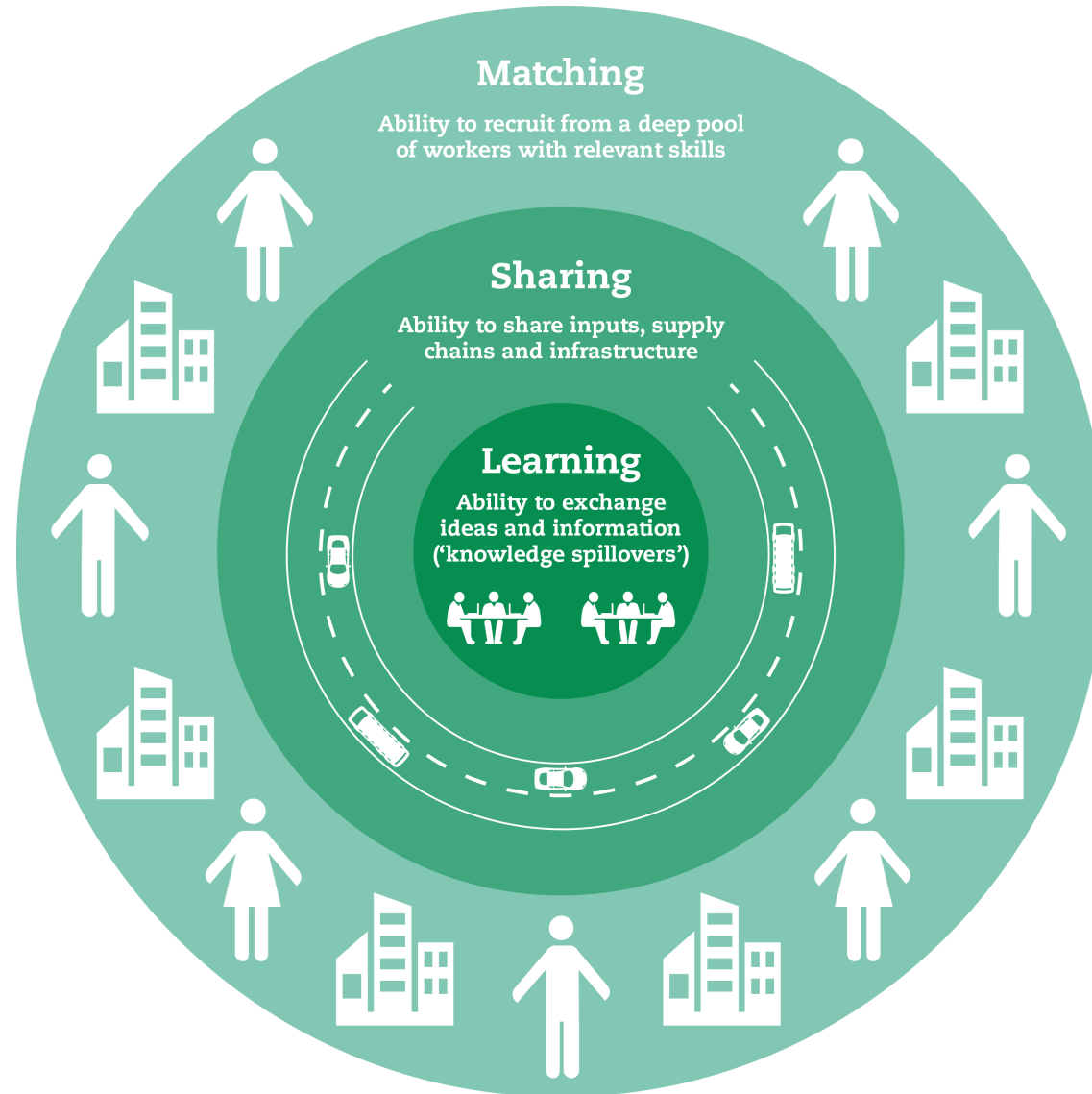
Gross Value Added per square kilometre by lower super output area



Share of output, jobs and private knowledge jobs in London

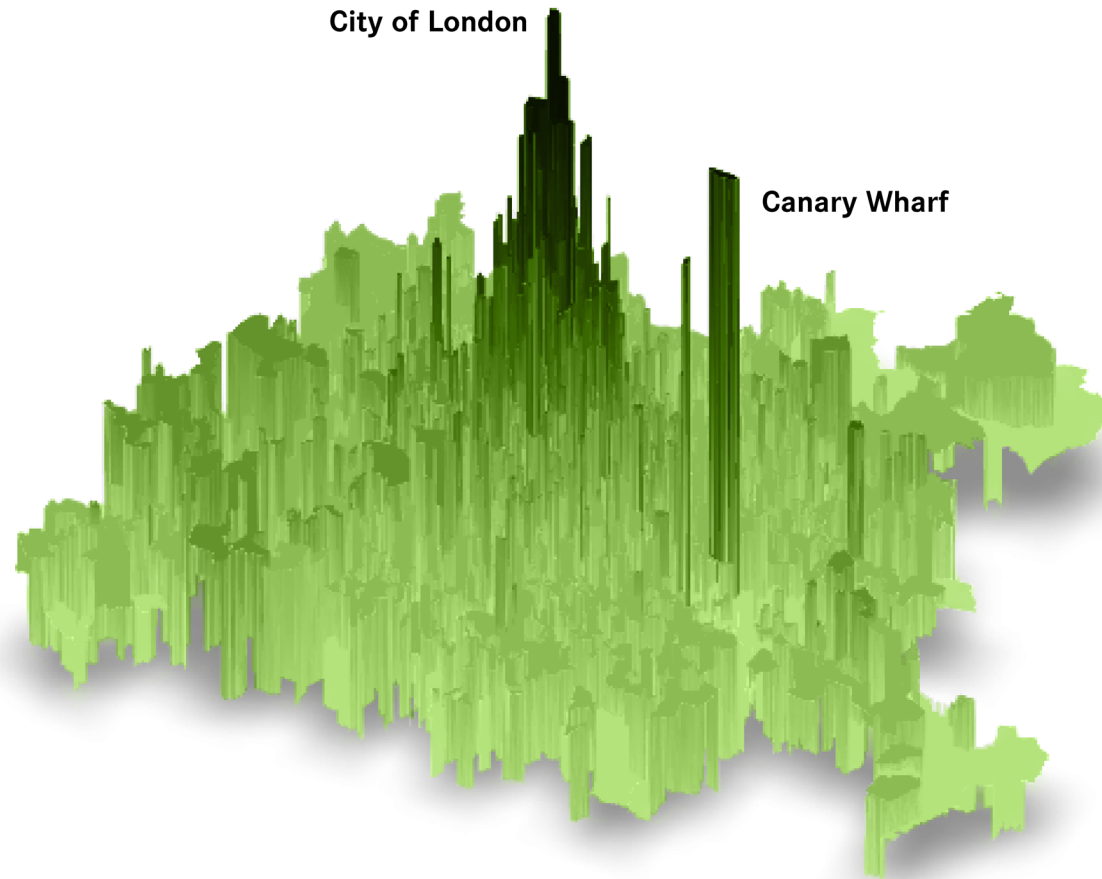


# This is because of the forces of 'agglomeration'



# And this happened despite the costs of doing so

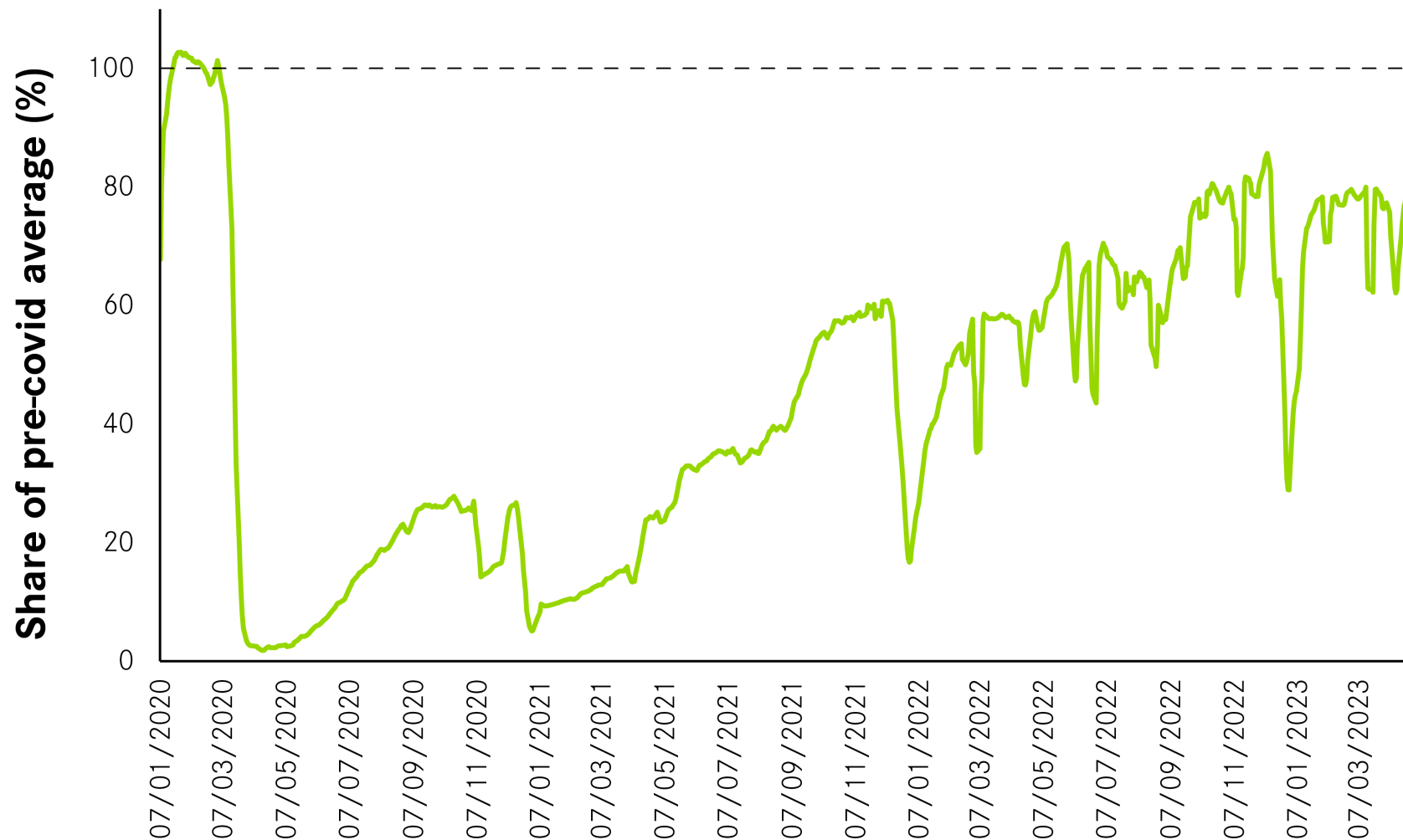
Office rateable values per square metre by lower super output area



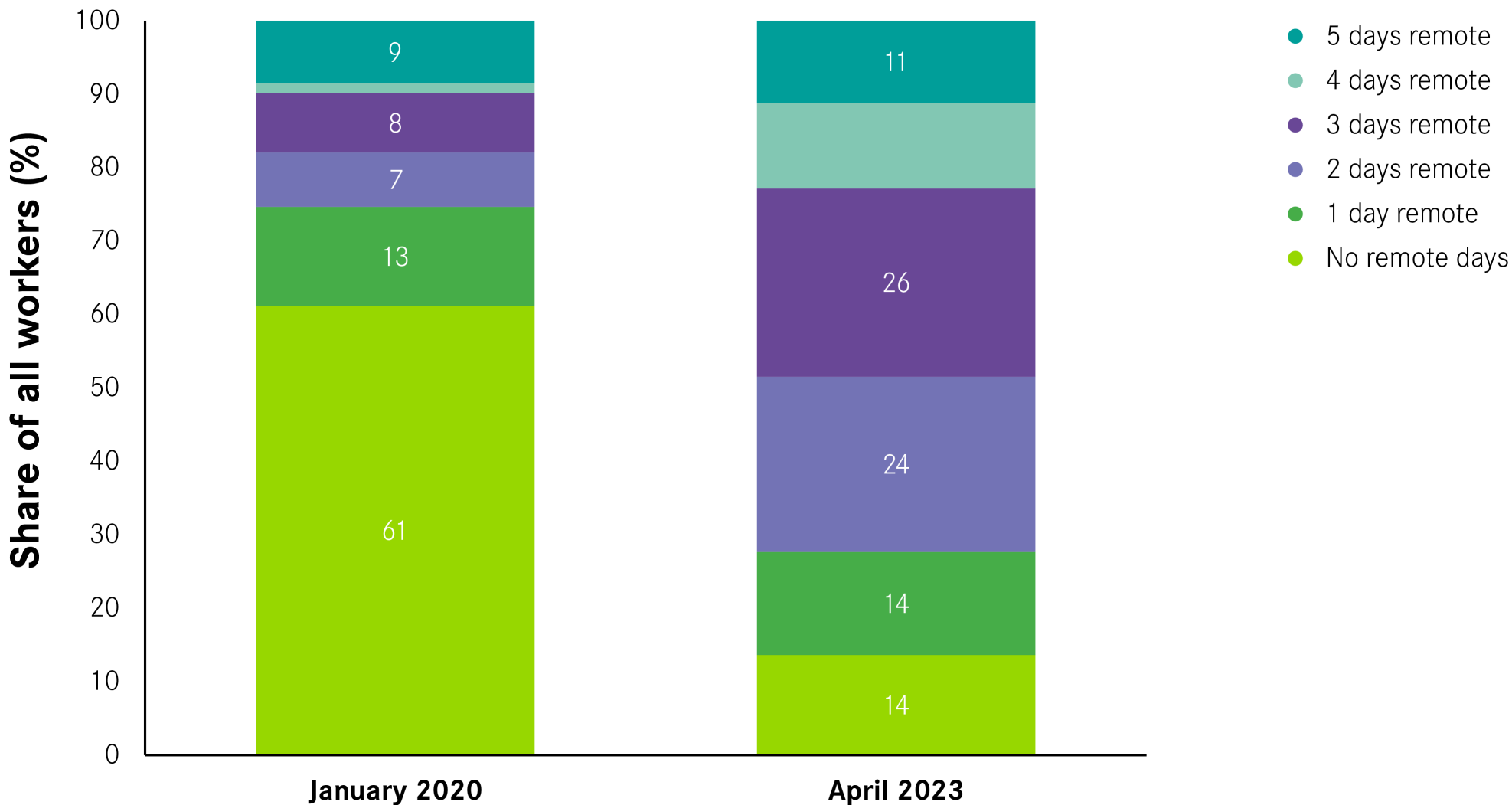


# There was a strong return to the office in 2022

Weekday 'office' tube station exits as share of pre-Covid-19 average



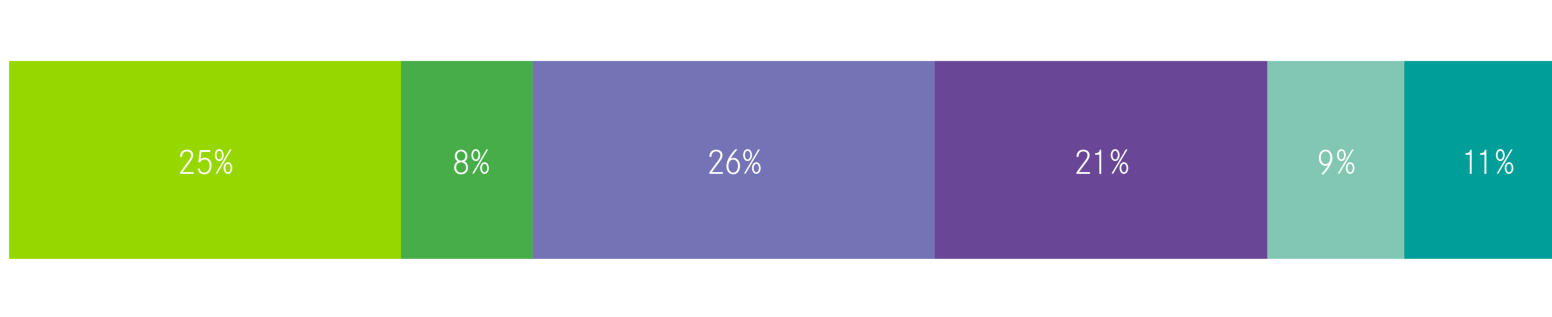
# But the world of work looks very different to 2019



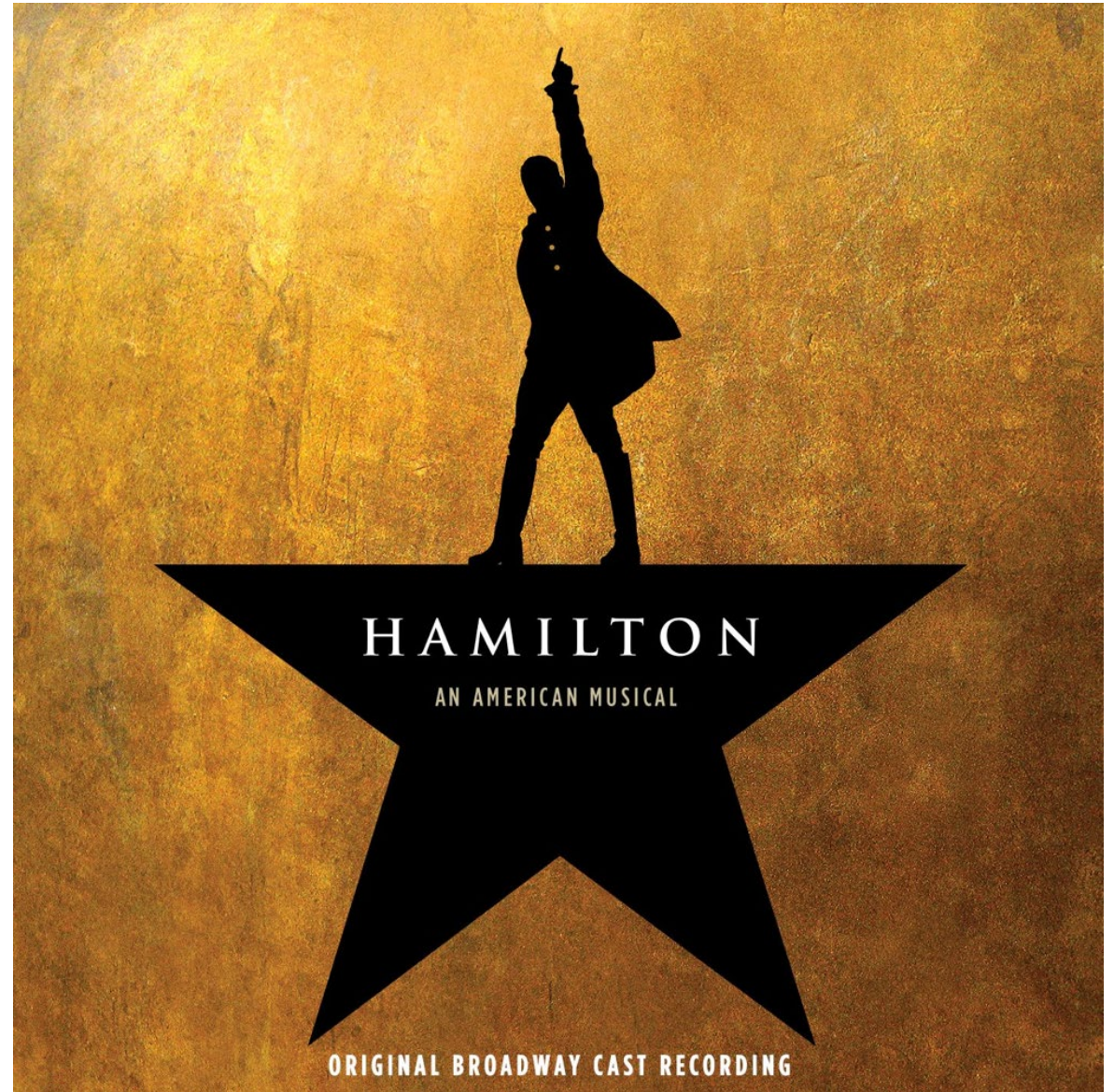
Source: Focaldata/Centre for Cities

Note: Survey conducted between 18 April and 1 May. All respondents (n=558), January 2020 (n=436)

# Most employers are requiring some office time



# Do short term benefits come with long term costs?



# Panel discussion

18:45 – 19:30

- **Chair: Evan Davis** | Journalist
- **Nick Carty** | Head of Business Services, International, AIG
- **Melanie Leech** | Chief Executive, British Property Federation
- **Shashi Verma** | Chief Technology Officer, Transport for London

# Networking Reception

19:30 – 20:00

