

London mayor courts embattled AI firm Anthropic

4 days ago

Share  Save 

Lily Jamali, North America Technology correspondent and **Kali Hays**, Technology reporter

 REUTERS London Mayor Sadiq Khan speaks during an interview

Reuters

London Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan is inviting San Francisco-based artificial intelligence (AI) developer Anthropic to grow its footprint in his city, while criticizing the Trump administration for seeking retribution against the company.

Sir Sadiq's letter to Anthropic boss Dario Amodei came as the Pentagon designated Anthropic a supply chain risk after Amodei refused to give US defence agencies unfettered access to its AI tools.

"It is extremely concerning to see this kind of behaviour, which is a clear attempt to intimidate and punish Anthropic for refusing to remove ethical safeguards," Sir Sadiq wrote.

Anthropic said it planned to challenge the designation in court.

Asked about the mayor's letter and his offer, a White House spokesperson told the BBC: "As President Trump said, we will never allow a radical left, woke company to dictate how our United States Military fights wars".

The BBC has contacted Anthropic. A spokesperson for the Mayor's office told the BBC that there have been discussions this week with "senior leaders" of the company.

In talks with US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, Amodei took issue with the prospect of having Anthropic's Claude model used to conduct mass domestic surveillance or autonomous military targeting.

The Pentagon has said the military must be able to use technology "for all lawful purposes" and argued those feared uses would violate the law and were not planned.

Last week, US President Donald Trump said he would direct every federal agency to immediately stop using technology from AI developer Anthropic.

"I applaud your steadfastness in the face of such pressure," Sir Khan wrote. "[I]t would be good to discuss how we could support you to expand operations further."

He added that London "could provide an even more significant location and platform for the future of Anthropic".

Sir Sadiq's letter could position London as a viable alternative for Anthropic as the company's relationship with the US government continues to deteriorate.

The AI developer had been in negotiations with the Department of Defense but on Thursday, Under Secretary of Defense Emil Michael said talks were off.

"I want to end all speculation: there is no active [Department of War] negotiation with [Anthropic]," Michael wrote on X.

The Department of War is a secondary name given by Trump to the Department of Defense.

The Pentagon's designation is the first time a US company has been labelled a supply chain risk, which means the government considers Anthropic not secure enough for it to use.

When the Pentagon first threatened the designation, insiders at Anthropic feared it might affect the company's business with partners that also conduct business with the US government.

So far, those fears appear unfounded.

On Thursday, tech giant Microsoft said that it would continue to embed Anthropic technology in products for its clients, with an exception carved out for the US Department of Defense.

"Our lawyers have studied the designation and have concluded that Anthropic products, including Claude, can remain available to our customers," Microsoft told the BBC in a statement Thursday.

What is AI and how does it work?
Anthropic vows to sue Pentagon over supply chain risk label
Trump orders government to stop using Anthropic in battle over AI use



Sign up for our Tech Decoded newsletter to follow the world's top tech stories and trends. **Outside the UK? Sign up here.**

Sadiq Khan

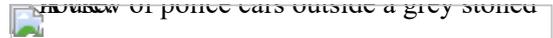
RELATED

[▶ How to spot a deepfake](#)[Family of child injured in Canada school shooting sues OpenAI](#)[My breast cancer was too small to be detected by the human eye - it was found by AI](#)

MORE FROM THE BBC

42 mins ago

Acid attack murder accused 'was never in Plymouth'



Danny Cahalane, 38, died several weeks after he was attacked with sulphuric acid at his Devon home.

42 mins ago

1 hr ago

London Tube strike dates announced by union



RMT members members will begin a series of 24 hour strike actions later this month.

1 hr ago

1 hr ago

US military prepare explosive ordnance at UK air base



US military personnel spotted preparing explosive ordnance at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

1 hr ago

2 hrs ago

Canada police investigate after shots fired at US consulate in Toronto



It comes as Norwegian police investigate an explosion that occurred outside the US embassy in Oslo on Sunday.

2 hrs ago

2 hrs ago

Air strikes cause black rain and 'unprecedented' pollution in Tehran, scientists say



Air strikes have damaged at least four oil facilities since US-Israeli attacks on Iran began last month.

2 hrs ago



[Home](#) [News](#) [Sport](#) [Business](#) [Technology](#) [Health](#) [Culture](#) [Arts](#) [Travel](#) [Earth](#) [Audio](#) [Video](#) [Live](#) [Documentaries](#)

[Weather](#) [BBC Shop](#) [BritBox](#)

[BBC in other languages](#) ▼

Follow BBC on:



[Terms of Use](#) [Subscription Terms](#) [About the BBC](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Accessibility Help](#) [Contact the BBC](#) [Advertise with us](#)

[Do not share or sell my info](#) [BBC.com Help & FAQs](#) [Content Index](#) [Set Preferred Source](#)

Copyright 2026 BBC. All rights reserved. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. [Read about our approach to external linking.](#)