Letter to Boris Johnson



Duodecimus Iunius

2013

Ave Boris,

Volo conqueror re quadras pavimenti. Est hos cum triginta sex bullae ad quodquae iuncturae atque bivii quas re vera adipiscant meum caper.

Cur o cur habemus tot ? Nocent meis pedis et nolo illas apud Londinium. Malo planas quadras – sunt melior pro meis teneris pedis et expecto caecus populus noli necessitant.

Ero lactus si amoevebis illas.

Tibi gratias ago,

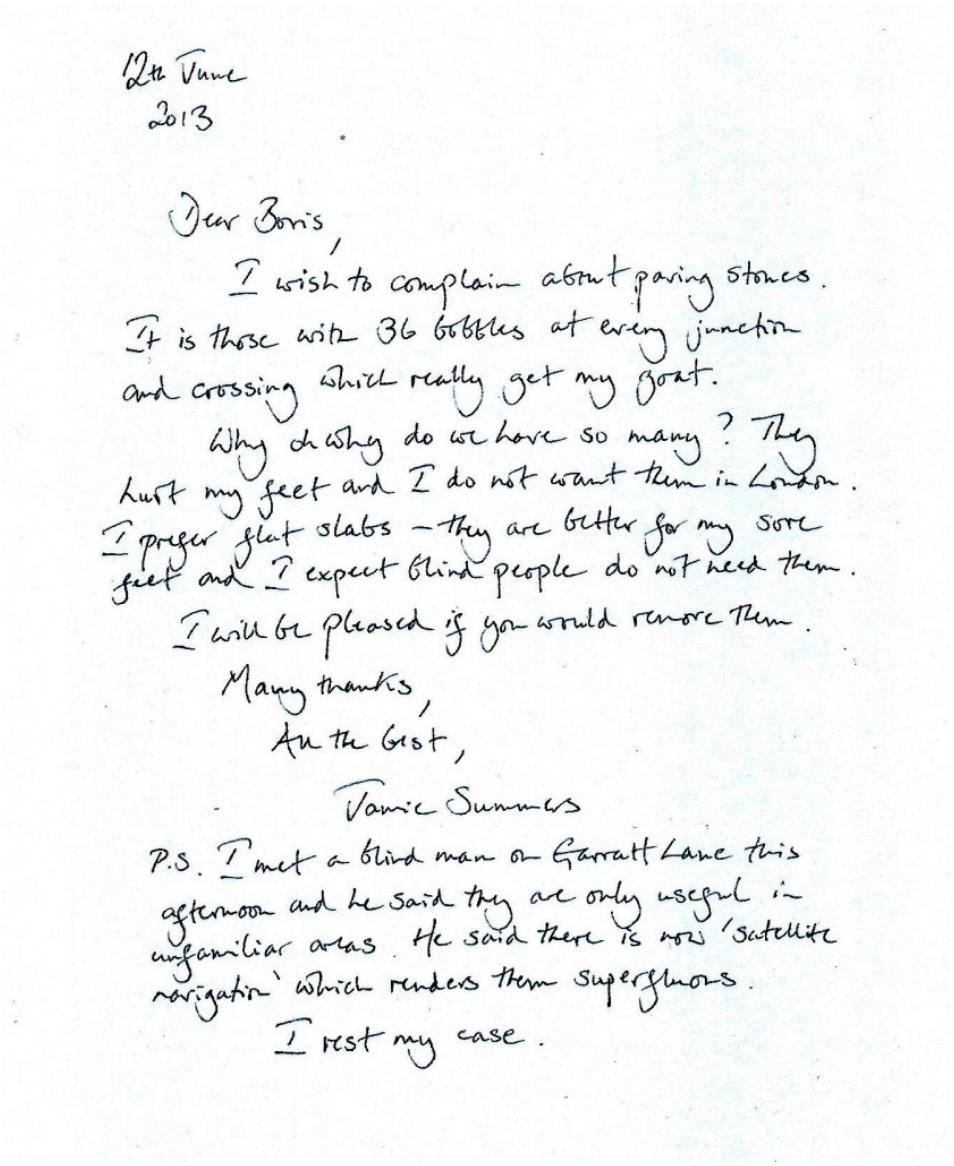
Omnis optime,

Jacobus Aestes (Jamie Summers)

P.S. Obvenivi homo caecus porro Garratt Lane hic post meridiem et inquit sunt solum utilis in pergrinas areas. Dicavit ibi est nunc ‘satelles navigatio’ quod reddat eas supervaceneos.

Quiesco meum quaestionum.

The translation below was not sent to Boris. He just received the Latin version.



12th June
2013

Dear Boris,

I wish to complain about paving stones. It is those with 36 bobbles at every junction and crossing which really get my goat.

Why oh why do we have so many? They hurt my feet and I do not want them in London. I prefer flat slabs – they are better for my sore feet and I expect blind people do not need them.

I will be pleased if you would remove them.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Janie Summers

P.S. I met a blind man on Garratt Lane this afternoon and he said they are only useful in unfamiliar areas. He said there is now 'satellite navigation' which renders them superfluous.

I rest my case.

Reply from Lucy Brant, 25 June 1014:

GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

Mr J Summers

Our ref: MGLA130613-9005

Date: 25 June 2013

Dear Mr Summers

Thank you for your letter which was passed on at the State of London debate. I have been asked to reply on the Mayor's behalf.

Whilst I am sorry to hear that you find tactile paving to be detrimental to your enjoyment of using the streets of London, this is not an issue over which the Mayor has jurisdiction. The siting of tactile paving is a matter for the local borough councils. It should be noted that these paving stones are used predominantly at crossing points, to protect blind and partially sighted people from accident and injury and to give those with sight problems the confidence to get around their city independently. Your comments on satellite navigation systems as an alternative are noted; however, since access to such technology is not universal, tactile paving plays an important part in ensuring that the roads and pavements are safe for all.

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Mayor with your views.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Brant
Public Liaison Unit

City Hall, London, SE1 2AA • london.gov.uk • 020 7983 4000

21st July 2013

Your ref : MGLA 130613-9005

Dear Lucy,

Thank you for your letter dated 25th June 2013 concerning my complaint about ‘tactile paving’. A minor pedantic gripe would be that you didn’t post it until 1st July and then it failed to arrive until 4th July – however, hypocrisy rules because here I am waiting until 21st July to pen a response !

Of course my letter to Boris was partly ‘tongue-in-cheek’ to put a smile on his face, but there again I did mean what I said. Your reply was measured (albeit sadly not in Latin) and well crafted. I fear we are stuck with these impedimenta – to replace them them all would be a cost and effort too far.

Wishing you every success in your career,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Summers