

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA080719-6762

2 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 8 July 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000

You asked for;

*I would like to request details of any visits Boris Johnson, the then mayor of London, made to the Russian embassy or Russian ambassador's residence during his time in office. I would also like copies of any correspondence between Boris Johnson and the Russian embassy or Russian government officials.*

Our response to your request is as follows:

Please find attached the correspondence sent by Boris Johnson. The correspondence consists mostly of responses to invitations. The incoming correspondence is kept in our offsite archive and I have not retrieved them in order to get the attached to you as quickly as possible. It is evident from the responses what the invitations relate to, however, if you do wish to see any of them then please let me know which ones.

Regarding visits, as you are aware copies of the former Mayors diary are published on our Disclosure Log.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

## Mayor's Office

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
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Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)  
**Our ref:** MGLA270508-8149

**Ms Elvira Nabiullina**

Minister for Economic Development and Trade  
Ministry for Economic Development and Trade  
of the Russian Federation  
1-st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Str. b.1,3,  
125993, GSP-3  
Moscow, A-47  
Russian Federation

Email: [REDACTED]

**Date:** 10 June 2008

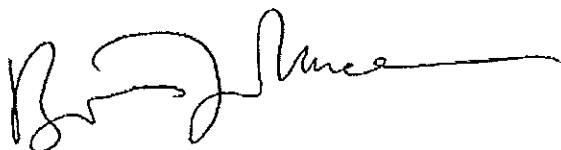
Dear Ms Nabiullina

Thank you for your letter in which you invited me to attend and speak at the XII Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum on 6-8 June.

Following the result of the election, I have received a large number of invitations, and unfortunately, it is not possible for me to accept them all. Therefore, I regret that on this occasion it was not possible for me to accept your invitation.

Please accept my apologies and I hope that the event was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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**H.E. Mr Yury Fedotov**

Ambassador of the Russian Federation  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Gardens  
London W8 4QX

Our ref: MGLA111208-0176

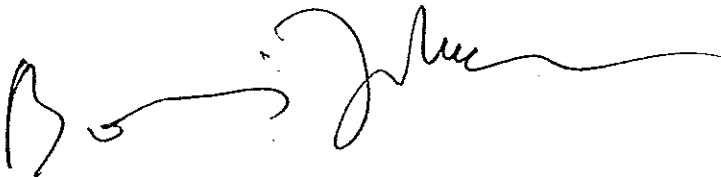
Date: 18 DEC 2008

Dear Ambassador

Many thanks for your letter regarding the death of His Holiness Alexy II and informing me about the book of condolences. Unfortunately, due to diary commitments it was not possible for me to go to the Embassy to sign the book.

Please accept my apologies and condolences.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

**Yuri Luzhkov**  
Mayor of Moscow  
13 Tverskaya Str  
Moscow  
125032  
Russia

Our ref: MGLA160508-7224

Date: 25 JUN 2008

Dear Mayor Luzhkov

Thank you so much for your kind words. As my team and I settle in at City Hall, it is fantastic to receive so many messages of support and congratulations from around the world.

Now that the campaign is over, the real work on crime, transport, housing and the environment can begin. Over the coming months and years I will be working flat out to resolve the issues that affect the people of this city, pursuing the best outcomes for Londoners.

I realise that both our cities have developed a very good relationship over the last few years. I hope that we can continue the collaboration between London and Moscow for the benefit of the citizens of our two great cities.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely

Best wishes



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

*I have many happy  
memories of Moscow  
and would be  
pleased to meet you  
soon*

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**Alexander Avdeev**  
Minister of Culture  
Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation  
House 7-6, building 1  
Maly Gnezdikovskiy per.  
125009 Moscow  
Russia

Our ref: CB

Date: 03 APR 2009

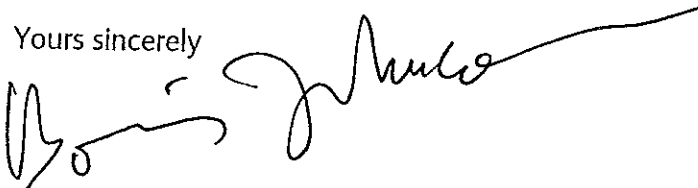
Dear Mr Avdeev

I am writing to thank you and your Ministry for your recent support of the Maslenitsa event that took place in London on 1 March.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the festival and experience the event but I understand that my Deputy mayor, Ian Clement, attended and opened the event on my behalf and that it was a great success with around 20,000 visiting the festival throughout the day. This is a great number of people to come together to celebrate Russia in London.

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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**Mr Yuri Luzhkov**

Mayor of Moscow  
13 Tverskaya Str  
Moscow  
125032  
Russia

Date:

03 DEC 2009

Dear Mayor Luzhkov

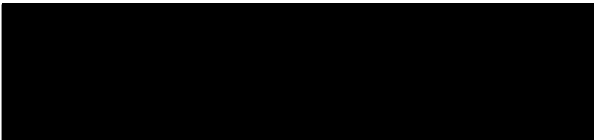
I am writing regarding the Maslenitsa event that we are celebrating in London for the second year running, which will be held on 7 February 2010.

This year's event was a great success and we are hoping to build on this success in 2010 and host another great festival in London in celebration of Russian culture.

Therefore, I would be delighted if Moscow City Government could once again lend its support to London's Maslenitsa event. Moscow's support would be very welcome and I am certain it would contribute to the event's success. I understand that the Russian Embassy and Ministry of Culture have already indicated their support for this year, so I hope that Moscow City Government can be included along with these organisations.

The main organiser of the event is Ensemble Productions, who can be contacted for all administrative matters relating to the festival. Their contact details are:

Olga Balakleets  
Director, Ensemble Productions  
Northumberland House  
11 The Pavement  
Popes Lane  
Ealing  
London W5 4NG

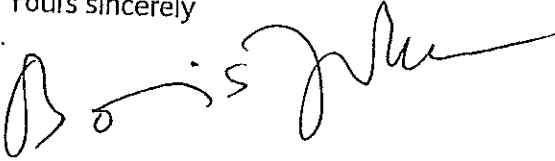


# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

As ever, if you or a representative would like to attend, we would be delighted to welcome you to London to take part in the day's events.

I very much hope you can support this event and help London and Moscow's links continue to develop.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London



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**His Excellency Mr Yury V. Fedotov**

Ambassador of Russia  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

Our ref:

Date: 07 AUG 2009

Dear Ambassador

**Re: Lunch on Thursday 30 July**

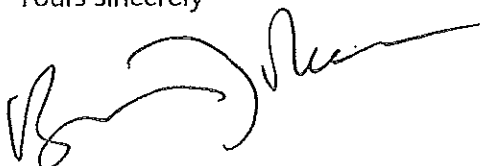
I wanted to write and thank you for taking the time to meet with me on Thursday 30 July at the Kuwaiti Embassy to discuss the payment of the Congestion Charge for diplomatic vehicles.

As I said at the time, I do welcome the extraordinary contribution that the Diplomatic Corps makes to London. I think the discussion was very helpful, and I would like to thank you and the other Ambassadors for being so gracious and welcoming to me.

The issue we discussed is a complex one. I certainly now better understand your views on this matter. I trust that you recognise how keen I am to work in a constructive way with all of you to find a mutually acceptable resolution.

We live in a diverse and beautiful city, but one that still has significant transport and environmental challenges. I remain hopeful that a solution can be identified that recognises the unique position of the Diplomatic Corps whilst helping London to address those challenges.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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Our ref: MGLA040309-9553

**Mr Yuri Luzhkov**  
Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
Tverskaya Street  
13 Moscow  
Russia 125032

Date: 09 MAR 2009

Dear Mayor Luzhkov

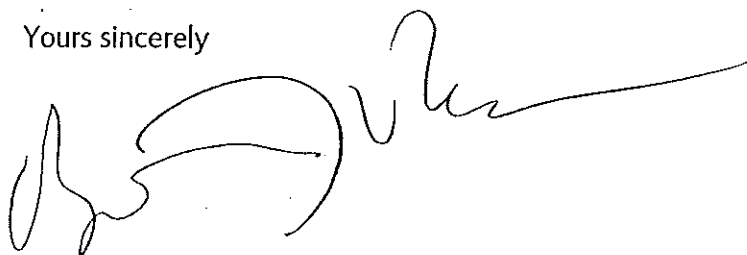
Thank you very much for your recent letters sending your support and best wishes for the Maslenitsa festival that took place in London on 1 March.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the festival but Ian Clement, my Deputy Mayor for Government and External Relations attended and spoke on my behalf. I understand that around 20,000 people experienced the festival over the course of the day, which is a great number of visitors.

I am very pleased that Moscow City Government lent its support to this event, which was a wonderful way to celebrate Russia in London.

I look forward to continuing our cities' co-operation and look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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**H.E. Mr Yury Fedotov**

Ambassador  
Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W87 4QX

**Our ref:** MGLA260609-3190

**Date:** 13 JUL 2009

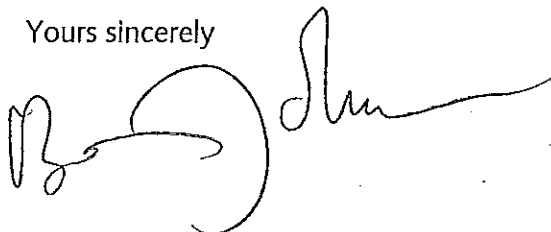
Dear Ambassador

Thank you for your kind offer for me to attend the first opening performance of 'Das Rheingold' at the Royal Opera House on 29 July followed by a late evening reception at your residence. I very much appreciate your invitation.

I am sorry but unfortunately, my diary is packed with unavoidable mayoral commitments and long-standing engagements, which, I'm afraid, makes it impossible for me to accept on this occasion.

I hope the performance and the rest of the summer season at The Mariinsky Theatre are a success.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

**Mr Yuri Luzhkov**  
Mayor of Moscow  
13 Tverskaya Str  
Moscow  
125032  
RUSSIA

Date: **14 JAN 2009**

Dear Mayor Luzhkov

**Maslenitsa – Farewell to Russian Winter**

Firstly I would like to thank you for your letter of 24 December, sending your best wishes to me and the people of London for 2009. Please allow me to take this opportunity to send the same wishes to you, your family and Moscow citizens.

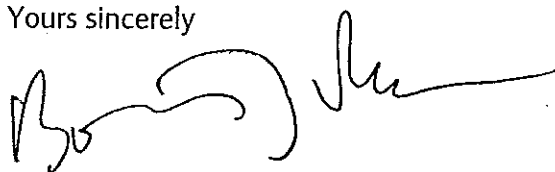
I am also writing regarding an event that will take place in London on 1 March to celebrate Maslenitsa. I realise that this is an important event in the Russian calendar and am delighted to support an event in London in recognition of this.

In continuation of London's previous celebrations of Russian culture and our cities' longstanding partnership, I would be delighted if this event would have the support and participation of Moscow City Government.

The Russian Embassy and Pushkin House, London have already indicated their support so I hope Moscow City Government will also participate in the event, to once again celebrate Russian culture in London.

I look forward to taking part in this event and working with Moscow more closely in the coming year.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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**Mr Yuri Luzhkov**

Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
Tverskaya Street  
13 Moscow  
Russia 125032

Our ref:

Date: 30 JUL 2009

Dear Mayor Luzhkov

**Proposal for Antony Gormley's *Event Horizon* in Moscow**

I am writing to you to give my support to the proposal that the leading British artist Antony Gormley should mount his very successful work, *Event Horizon*, on some of the public buildings of your great city, as part of this year's Moscow Biennale.

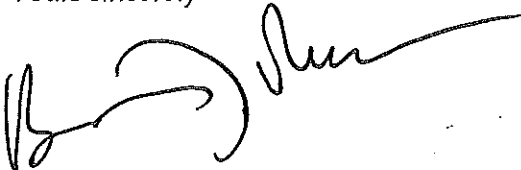
Antony Gormley is one of Britain's most celebrated artists and has gained international recognition for his works, which are both impressive and human in scale.

I am delighted by the way his current work in London's Trafalgar Square, *One & Other* has proved such a popular success and national talking point. The success of this project very much builds on the popular response to *Event Horizon* when it was first presented in London. The work was a huge triumph with the public and showed Londoners their city in a new light.

It would be a magnificent gesture on your part if you were able to agree to the presentation of the work in Moscow.

With every best wish for the success of the Biennale.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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**H.E. Mr Yury Fedotov**

Ambassador of the Russian Federation  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

**Our ref:** MGLA280410-9502

Fax: [REDACTED]

**Date:**

**10 MAY 2010**

Dear Ambassador

Thank you for your kind offer for me to attend a Gala Concert marking the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in the Second World War at the Royal Albert Hall this Monday. I very much appreciate your invitation.

I am very sorry but unfortunately, my diary is packed with unavoidable mayoral commitments and long-standing engagements, which I'm afraid makes it impossible for me to accept on this occasion.

However, I understand that my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, is attending the concert and dinner so I hope you have the opportunity to meet him during the evening.

I wish you well with your event and hope it is a great success.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

**H E Mr Yury Fedotov**

The Ambassador of the Russian Federation

**Mr Brad King**

The Director of HMS Belfast

Embassy of Russia

13 Kensington Gardens

London W8 4QX

**Our ref:** MGLA090310-5916

**Date:**

**15 MAR 2010**

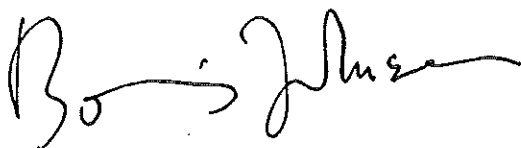
Dear Ambassador and Mr King

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the Ceremony of Presentation of keepsake medals commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the victory in the Second World War to the Veterans of the Arctic Convoys taking place on 24 March. I very much appreciate the invitation.

I am sorry but unfortunately, my diary is packed with unavoidable mayoral commitments and long-standing engagements, which I'm afraid makes it impossible for me to accept on this occasion.

I wish you well with your event and hope it is a great success.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**

Mayor of London

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**H.E. Mr Yury Fedetov**

Ambassador of the Russian Federation  
The Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

**Our ref:** MGLA280710-6366

**Date:** 25 AUG 2010

Dear Ambassador

Thank you for your kind offer for me to attend your Farewell Reception taking place on 9 September. I very much appreciate your invitation.


I am sorry but unfortunately, my diary is packed with unavoidable mayoral commitments and long-standing engagements, which I'm afraid makes it impossible for me to accept on this occasion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the Russian Maslenitsa Festival during your time as Ambassador. This Festival has proven to be a great way to highlight and celebrate Russian culture in London.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in London and I wish you every success in your new role as Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. I trust you will remain a good friend to London and hope that you return to the city, as you will be warmly welcomed anytime.

I wish you well with your reception and hope it is a great success.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London



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**Mr Sergei Sobyanin**

Mayor of Moscow  
13 Tverskaya Str  
Moscow  
125032  
Russia

Date: 26 NOV 2010

Dear Mayor Sobyanin

Please accept my congratulations on your appointment as Mayor of Moscow.

You may be aware already that the next Maslenitsa event will be held in London on 6 March 2011, for the third year running.

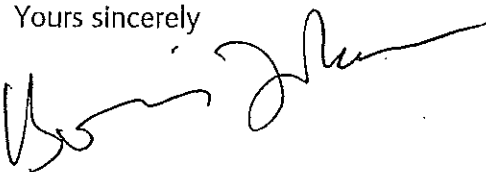
I would be delighted if Moscow City Government could once again lend its support to the event. I understand that the Russian Embassy and Ministry of Culture have already indicated their support for this year. I very much hope you can support this event and am certain your support would further contribute to its success.

The organiser of the event is Ensemble Productions, who can be contacted for all administrative matters relating to the festival. Please contact Olga Balakleets, Director, Ensemble Productions at:

Northumberland House  
11 The Pavement  
Popes Lane Ealing  
London W5 4NG

I look forward to working closely with you and your office to strengthen further the already close relationship between our two cities and peoples.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**

Mayor of London

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**Mr Yuri Luzhkov**  
Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
13 Tverskaya Str  
Moscow  
125032  
Russia

**Date: 29 MAR 2010**

Dear Mayor Luzhkov

It is with great sadness that we have today heard about the attacks on the Moscow metro.

On behalf of London, may I offer you and all Muscovites, my deepest sympathies. Our thoughts are with you and the families who have lost loved ones.

As you know we have unfortunately experienced similar attacks in London. My Transport Commissioner is happy to offer your office any help or advice that you feel might be of assistance.

With sincere best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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Our ref: MGLA280311-4627

**Mr Alexander Konovalov**

Minister of Justice  
The Russian Federation  
14 Zhitnaya Ulitsa  
Moscow 119991  
Russia

Date: **03 MAY 2011**

Dear Minister Konovalov

Thank you for your letter kindly inviting me to attend the First Petersburg International Legal Forum on May 19-21.

I am very grateful for the invitation but it is with regret that I must decline on this occasion, as my diary is already full with long-standing engagements in London throughout May making it impossible for me to travel to St. Petersburg.

I hope that the forum is a fantastic success and enjoyed by all.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Mayor's Office

### **HE Alexander Yakovenko**

Ambassador  
Embassy Of The Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

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London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
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**Our ref:** MGLA230211-1839

**Date:** 07 MAR 2011


Dear Ambassador Yakovenko

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend Vin d'Honneur at your residence on 2 March.

I understand that my office sent my apologies in advance of the event but I also wanted to respond personally. I was very grateful for the invitation but it was with regret that I had to decline on this occasion, as my diary was full with long-standing engagements that day.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to you and truly hope and trust that you will enjoy your time in London. I look forward to working with you to continue our partnership with Moscow.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Mayor's Office

### **HE Alexander Yakovenko**

Ambassador  
Embassy of The Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

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**Our ref:** MGLA010311-2405

**Date:**

**14 MAR 2011**


Dear Ambassador Yakovenko

Thank you for kindly inviting me to attend a Reception on the occasion of the launch of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking at your residence on 10 March.

I was very grateful for the invitation but unfortunately it was not possible for me to attend, as I had a previous engagement that evening.

I hope that the Reception was a fantastic success and would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest good wishes to all connected with the Group of Friends against Human Trafficking and wish them the very best with future endeavours.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**

Mayor of London

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Our ref: MGLA040511-7103

**Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko**  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

Date:

**19 MAY 2011**

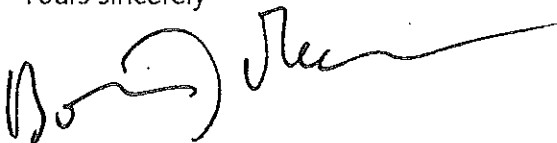
Dear Ambassador

Thank you for your letter kindly inviting me to attend the International Legal Forum taking place between 19-21 May in St. Petersburg.

I am very grateful for the invitation but regrettably must decline on this occasion, as my diary is already full with long-standing engagements.

I hope that the forum is a fantastic success and would like to extend my warmest good wishes to all connected with the International Legal Forum.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

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**Mr Sergei Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
13 Tverskaya Str  
Moscow  
125032  
Russia

Date:  
**24 JAN 2011**

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

It is with great sadness that we have today heard about the terrible attacks on your city's airport.

On behalf of London, may I offer you and all Muscovites, my deepest sympathies. Our thoughts are with you and the families who have lost loved ones.

I know there were plans for us to meet in Davos, but obviously I fully understand if this now does not happen, and I look forward to meet with you at some time in the future.

With sincere best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', followed by a long horizontal line.

**Boris Johnson**

Mayor of London

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### **Mr Sergei Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
13 Tverskaya Str  
Moscow  
125032  
Russia

Date: **27 JUL 2011**

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

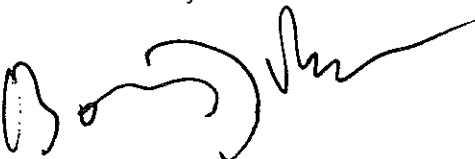
I am writing to inform you of plans to hold a Russian Arts Festival in London in the autumn of 2013. The project has been conceived and developed by Evgeny Lebedev and has my full endorsement. It is envisaged that the Festival will be a London-wide season celebrating the best of contemporary Russian culture. I know that Moscow's involvement in this project will be very important.

The programme will range widely to link all disciplines and include the visual arts, film, theatre, music, dance and literature. All the leading London cultural organisations will be involved, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, Southbank Centre, Barbican, Hayward Gallery, Serpentine Gallery, British Film Institute, Sadler's Wells, Donmar Warehouse and Royal Court Theatre. An important highlight will be a major exhibition of Russian art of the last 20 years, which will have a strong emphasis on work by contemporary artists. There are, however, no limits yet to the ideas for potential exhibitions and the organisers would, of course, be extremely interested in any inspiration you might want to give.

Although the main aim is to introduce London and Londoners to The Russian Arts and Contemporary Russian Culture, it is also a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the ties between Russian and British Art and to promote freedom of expression.

I hope you will endorse this initial proposal and, in due course, the Mayor of Moscow's Office will show its support.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London



# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Mayor's Office

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

### **Mr Sergei Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow  
13 Tverskaya Street  
Moscow  
125032  
Russia

Date:

**03 DEC 2012**

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you once more to inform you of the proposed date for our much loved and respected Russian festival, Maslenitsa, which is planned to take place in London, on Saturday 16 March 2013 on Trafalgar Square. The festival has become an important date in London's cultural calendar, not only for the large Russian-speaking community, but for the capital as a whole.

As I am sure you are aware, London has been the proud host of a large-scale celebration of Russian culture, both traditional and contemporary for many years now and this will be the fifth of its kind organised by Ensemble Productions in co-operation with the Greater London Authority. I know that 2013 will be a key year for the mutual co-operation of our two cities and indeed of our two countries. By supporting this event in the wake of our own successful London Olympic and Paralympic Games, we also hope to extend to you our very best wishes for Russia's preparation for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

We hope that we can count on Moscow City Government's continued co-operation with regard to Maslenitsa festival - a gateway culturally connecting our two great cities, and that you will provide your renewed support in helping us showcase the best of Russia's music, theatre and dance in London in 2013. We also hope that you will be able to visit London for the occasion, so that we too can meet and build on the recent visit of your Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff Anastasia Rakova, Deputy Mayor Andrei Sharonov, and the Moscow delegation with my Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise Kit Malthouse and my Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, Richard Blakeway.

Maslenitsa will also be an ideal platform from which to launch the Year of Russian Culture in Britain and British Culture in Russia 2014/15, for which we understand Ensemble Productions, along with other cultural organisations, is researching a number of exciting British initiatives to bring to Moscow. Naturally we laud and encourage this cooperation.

Yours ever,



**Boris Johnson**

Mayor of London

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Mayor's Office

**Mr Sergey Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
Tverskaya Street 13  
Moscow Russia  
125032

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** MGLA200912-7197

**Date:** 05 OCT 2012

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

Thank you for your letter kindly inviting me to attend the First Moscow International Forum for Foreign Investments being held in Moscow on 17-18 October.

I am so sorry but, much as I am very grateful for the invitation, unfortunately it is not possible for me to accept on this occasion as my diary is already full with engagements in London on both days.

I hope that the Forum is a fantastic success.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**

Mayor of London

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

**Mr Sergey Sobyenin**  
Mayor of Moscow  
[info@forinnovations.org](mailto:info@forinnovations.org)

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** MGLA210812-3625

**Date:**

**31 AUG 2012**

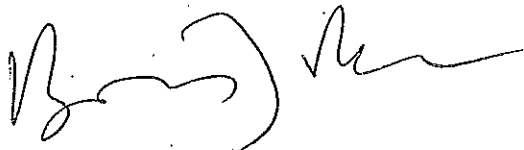
Dear Mayor Sobyenin

Thank you for your letter of 15 August kindly inviting me to attend the Moscow International Forum for Innovation Development "Open Innovations" on 31 October to 2 November 2012.

I am so sorry but, much as I am very grateful for the invitation, unfortunately it is not possible for me to accept on this occasion as my diary is already filling up with engagements in October and November.

I hope that the Forum is a fantastic success.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mr Sergei Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow  
13 Tverskaya Street  
Moscow  
125032  
Russian Federation

**Date: 02 DEC 2013**

Dear Mayor Sobyenin


I am delighted to inform you that the popular annual Festival of Russian culture, Maslenitsa, has received the support and endorsement of the Greater London Authority for another year. The date for the sixth event of its kind has been set for Sunday 2 March 2014, and the venue again - our iconic Trafalgar Square.

The Russian Festival Maslenitsa in London, organised by Ensemble Productions, is our most significant Russian event. I understand that the date for 2014 is especially important as it falls on Russian Orthodox Forgiveness Sunday, when, I am informed, celebrations will be taking place across Russia. We also, of course, look forward to the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi, which Maslenitsa in London will reflect with its special "Olympic Experience" zone and live satellite link-ups.

I also believe that next year's Maslenitsa will be one of the first key initiatives to open the official "2014 UK/Russia Year of Culture", a major cultural initiative agreed and welcomed by both our Governments. We hope residents of Moscow will enjoy the comprehensive programme of events and projects that the British Council have carefully chosen from all four countries of the United Kingdom and which represent our art forms, creative industries, education, science and language. Equally, we eagerly await the Russian events that will be staged over the year in London and the UK, as brought to us by the Russian Embassy in London.

Maslenitsa is facilitated by, and a demonstration of, the good relations which exist between our two cities. The Festival continues to exemplify the immense contribution that Russian-speaking people make to life in London, and offers an opportunity for enhancing positive contacts in business, city administration and education. As 2014 is such an important milestone, it seems only right for London and Moscow, as capital cities, to lead the way in strengthening these ties. Therefore, we hope for the renewed support of the Moscow City Government for Maslenitsa 2014 and look forward to welcoming your delegation to the event.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mr Sergey Ivanov**

Head of the Presidential Administration of the  
Russian Federation  
2 Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment  
Moscow  
103274  
Russian Federation

Date: **02 DEC 2013**

Dear Mr Ivanov

I am delighted to inform you that the popular annual Festival of Russian culture, Maslenitsa, has received the support and endorsement of the Greater London Authority for another year. The date for the sixth event of its kind has been set for Sunday 2 March 2014, and the venue again - our iconic Trafalgar Square.

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Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mr Vladimir Medinsky**

Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation  
c/o H.E. Alexander Yakovenko  
Ambassador of the Russian Federation  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Garden  
London W8 4QX

**Our ref:** MGLA271113-2956

**Date:** 02 DEC 2013

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 19 November kindly inviting me to attend the II St Petersburg International Cultural Forum on 2-4 December.

I am so sorry but, much as I am very grateful for the invitation, unfortunately it is not possible for me to accept on this occasion as my diary, as well as the diaries of my senior representatives, are already full with commitments and engagements in London on those dates.

I hope that the event is a fantastic success, and would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest good wishes to all those attending the St Petersburg International Culture Forum.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London



# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mr Vyacheslav Volodin**

First Deputy Head of the Presidential  
Administration of the Russian Federation  
23 Iliinka Street (entrance 11)  
Moscow  
103132  
Russian Federation

Date: 02 DEC 2013

Dear Mr Volodin

I am delighted to inform you that the popular annual Festival of Russian culture, Maslenitsa, has received the support and endorsement of the Greater London Authority for another year. The date for the sixth event of its kind has been set for Sunday 2 March 2014, and the venue again - our iconic Trafalgar Square.

The Russian Festival Maslenitsa in London, organised by Ensemble Productions, is our most significant Russian event. I understand that the date for 2014 is especially important as it falls on Russian Orthodox Forgiveness Sunday, when, I am informed, celebrations will be taking place across Russia. We also, of course, look forward to the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi, which Maslenitsa in London will reflect with its special "Olympic Experience" zone and live satellite link-ups.

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Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Mayor's Office

**HE Mr Alexander Yakovenko**

Ambassador  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)  
**Our ref:** MGLA250113-7373

**Date:**

**06 FEB 2013**

Your Excellency

Thank you for taking the time to meet recently. It was a fascinating discussion. I particularly enjoyed hearing about how Moscow is developing – the changes you describe are truly impressive.

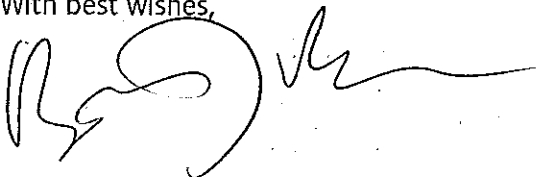
As I said, I am very keen to visit and experience the transformation first hand. I would also like my team to follow up with your office on the idea we discussed about the potential for a 'joint venture' regarding an electric taxi – I believe this it would be a great achievement if we can make it happen. My Deputy Mayor, Isabel Dedring, is leading on this issue on my behalf and I have asked her to contact your office to take these discussions forward -

With this in mind, I will be accepting Mayor Sobyenin's invitation to attend the Third Moscow Urban Forum – subject to confirmation of exact dates. If this proves impossible I will make every effort to find another time to visit as soon as possible.

On a separate note, I also wanted to thank you for the information you sent through regarding the Krasnoyarsk International Economic Forum, taking place from 14-16 February. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this event due to existing commitments in London, but do please pass on my best wishes to everyone involved.

I look forward to seeing you again soon.

With best wishes,



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London



# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Olga Golodets**

Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation  
dom 2  
Krasnopresnenskaya naberezhnaya  
Moscow  
103274  
Russian Federation

**Our ref:** MGLA080713-0610

**Date:** 07 AUG 2013

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

I wanted to express my delight that the wonderful Russian event Maslenitsa will once again be staged in London on 2 March 2014, and am pleased that I have been able to support this event on Trafalgar Square for another year.

I also understand that Maslenitsa marks the start of 'The Year of Russian Culture in the UK', which I am sure will be a great opportunity to develop cultural and business links between Russia and the UK and with London in particular. There is already a vibrant Russian-speaking community in London, which will no doubt also welcome a repeat of this event and the wider year-long festival.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**HE Mr Alexander Yakovenko**  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

**Our ref:** MGLA260413-4988

**Date:** 17 JUL 2013

Your Excellency

Thank you for your letter of 23 April inviting me to discuss recent developments in UK-Russia relations over lunch or dinner at your residence. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am very grateful for your generous invitation so it is with regret that I must write to say my diary for the remainder of the year is already full of previously agreed commitments, making it impossible for me to identify a date for the foreseeable future. I hope you will accept my sincere apologies and perhaps we may revisit the possibility in the future.

I was very pleased to hear that both my Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, Richard Blakeway, and my Head of Transport, Victoria Hills, were able to welcome Deputy Mayor Pyotr Biryukov to City Hall. As two growing capital cities looking to deliver major infrastructure projects, there is much that London and Moscow can learn from each other as we meet the shared challenges of the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on my plans to visit Russia. As you know, I had provisionally accepted Mayor Sobyanin's invitation to speak at the Third Moscow Urban Forum later this year, subject to confirmation of dates. Following your email to my Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Sir Edward Lister, confirming the Forum will take place on 5 and 6 December 2013, regrettably, I am unable to be in Moscow on either of those dates. I am writing to Mayor Sobyanin to offer my apologies and suggest that, as an alternative, Sir Edward may be able to speak at the Forum in my place.

However, I am still determined to visit Russia so my office is in the early stages of planning a visit to Moscow and St Petersburg after the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. I hope to be able to confirm my intentions to you in the near future and of course, very much welcome your offer of support in preparation of a visit.

## MAYOR OF LONDON

Finally, I know that you very recently hosted celebrations to mark the occasion of Russia Day and I hope those celebrations were a huge success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mayor Sergey Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
13 Tverskaya Street  
Moscow  
125032

Date: **17 JUL 2013**

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

In January this year I wrote to you to accept your kind invitation for me to speak at the Third Moscow Urban Forum towards the end of 2013, subject to confirmation of the dates of the Forum and my availability at that time.

I have since been notified by His Excellency Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko that the Forum has been confirmed for both the 5 and 6 December 2013. Following this, it is with regret that I must now write to advise that I am unable to travel to Russia on these days and will no longer be able to represent London at the Forum. I hope you will accept my sincere apologies.

However, I am keen for London to have a strong representation at the event and would like to propose that my Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Sir Edward Lister, attends the Forum and speaks on my behalf. If this is acceptable to you, I would be grateful if you could confirm this with [REDACTED] in my International Team by email at [REDACTED].uk or by telephone on +44 20 7983 [REDACTED] who will make the necessary arrangements.

Although I am unable to speak at the Forum as previously planned, I remain determined to visit Russia. My office is in the early stages of planning a visit to Russia after the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. The precise dates and details of my trip are still to be confirmed, but I do hope to be able to meet with you during my visit and my office will be in touch.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mayor Sergey Sobyenin**

Moscow City Hall  
13 Tverskaya Street  
Moscow 103032  
Russian Federation

**Date: 19 DEC 2013**

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

In April this year I sent your city an invitation to join the World Cities Culture Forum, a powerful new voice for culture in global cities.

Since its launch in 2012, the Forum has doubled in size and now boasts 22 members from leading cities around the world. The Forum also commissioned the first World Cities Culture Report - the most comprehensive study of culture ever developed. It showed that culture plays a central role in shaping cities and is as important as finance and trade. The Report is available to view at:  
[www.worldcitiescultureforum.com](http://www.worldcitiescultureforum.com).

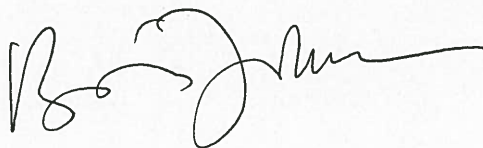
The World Cities Culture Forum is an unprecedented gathering of city leaders responsible for culture. Global gatherings have taken place in London, Shanghai and most recently, Istanbul.

Membership of the Forum offers access to a rich network of influential global peers, insights into groundbreaking innovation in cities, a robust evidence base demonstrating the value of culture in cities. It looks at the powerful role of culture in improving international positioning, bringing tourism, jobs, improving health and well-being, social inclusion and raising quality of life.

Therefore, I would like to renew my invitation to your city and very much hope you will join us in 2014 and bring your city's unique perspective to this growing and dynamic alliance.

If your office would like further information about the Forum or the Report, please contact [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Cultural Strategy Manager in my Culture Team, by email at [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mayor Sergey Sobyenin**  
Mayor of Moscow  
Moscow City Government  
13 Tverskaya Street  
Moscow  
125032

**Our ref:** MGLA090813-3786

**Date:** 21 OCT 2013

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

Congratulations on your success in the recent Moscow Mayoral election. I look forward to London and Moscow working together on issues of common importance and also to meeting with you when I visit Russia in 2014.

Thank you also for your letter kindly inviting me to speak at the Open Innovations Forum in Moscow on 31 October and please accept my apologies for the delay responding to you on this matter. I am very grateful for the invitation so it is with regret that I must decline, as my diary is already full with Mayoral commitments and engagements, making it impossible for me travel to Moscow at that time.

My office is now making arrangements for my Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Sir Edward Lister, to speak at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Moscow Urban Forum in December this year. I hope that both the Open Innovations Forum and Moscow Urban Forum are a huge success, and would like to extend my warmest good wishes to all connected with both events.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Mayor's Office

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

**Mr Sergey Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow  
13 Tverskaya str.  
Moscow 125032  
Russia

Date:

**31 JAN 2013**

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

Thank you for your very kind invitation to participate in the Third Moscow Urban Forum, passed to me by Mr Cheremin when we met recently.


I note the event is planned for the end of 2013 and, subject to exact dates being confirmed, I would be very happy to accept your invitation. If it proves difficult for me to attend the Forum due to other commitments, when the dates are finalised, I would be very keen to organise a visit to Moscow on another occasion in the not too distant future.

I was fascinated to hear about the developments taking place in Moscow and the challenges you face as you manage the growth of your city, and I am sure we can exchange a great deal of useful information.

If your office would like to discuss the details further please ask them to contact [REDACTED] Manager in my International Relations team. [REDACTED] can be contacted by email at [REDACTED]@[london.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@london.gov.uk) or by telephone on [REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing about further information.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mayor Sergey Sobyenin**  
Mayor of Moscow  
C/d [REDACTED]

**Our ref:** MGLA280814-5671

**Date:** 11 NOV 2014

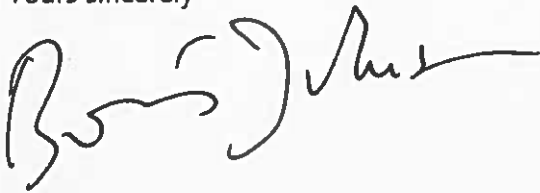
Dear Mayor Sobyenin

Thank you for your letter kindly inviting me to participate in this year's edition of the Moscow Urban Forum which is taking place between 11 and 13 December. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I am so sorry but, much as I am very grateful for the invitation, unfortunately it is not possible for me to accept as my diary does not permit me to travel to Moscow in December this year. However, I understand that my Executive Director-Development for Enterprise and Environment, Ms Fiona Fletcher-Smith, has accepted an invitation to speak at this year's event and I am absolutely confident that she will be a highly valued addition to the programme.

I hope the event is a real success.

Yours sincerely



**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London



# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mayor Sergey Sobyenin**  
Mayor of Moscow  
[REDACTED]

**Our ref:** MGLA120214-8967

**Date:** 12 MAR 2014

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

Thank you so much for the kind invitation to speak at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress 2014 which is taking place in Moscow from 17-20 March.

I am so sorry but, much as I am very grateful for the invitation, unfortunately it is not possible for me to accept on this occasion as my diary is already full with engagements in March, making it impossible for me to travel to the Moscow at that time.

Thank you for taking the trouble to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Mayor Sergey Sobyenin**

Mayor of Moscow

**Date:** 15 JUL 2014

Dear Mayor Sobyenin

I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear of today's commuter train derailment on the Moscow Metro. The thoughts of all Londoners are with those who have lost loved ones, the many people who have suffered injury, and the emergency services working tirelessly to rescue those still trapped underground.

If my office can assist you and your colleagues in any way please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Boris Johnson**

Mayor of London