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The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Secretary of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Dear Boris

Congestion Charging Diplomatic Debt

I am writing regarding the outstanding Congestion Charging diplomatic debt.

As you are aware from your eight years as the Mayor of London, we and the UK Government are clear that the Congestion Charge is a charge for a service and not a tax. This means diplomats are not exempt from paying it. Around three quarters of embassies in London do pay the Charge, but there remains a stubborn minority who refuse to do so, despite our representations through diplomatic channels. As of 31 August 2016 the outstanding diplomatic debt stands at £103m with the American Embassy owing £11.3m.

While I acknowledge that members of our senior management teams have discussed this matter, we have had no progress and would urge you to continue to pursue all unpaid Congestion Charge fees and related penalty charge notices with the relevant embassies and to push for the matter to be taken up at the International Court of Justice.

Yours sincerely

All best wishes

Mike Brown MVO

