

**"TREETOPS", 58 SPITFIRE CLOSE, SOUTH CROYDON, SURREY**

Ken Livingstone  
Lord Mayor of London  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA

Dear Mr Livingstone

I am writing to you regarding a subject that will be close to your heart (and wallet), namely the huge cost of upkeep for all street furniture within our capital. I am not talking about utilitarian items such as benches, hanging baskets and the like. I am thinking of the vast number of statues that populate all areas of central London, from historic effigies such as Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square to Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens.

It occurs to me that enormous sums must be spent annually, not just in cleansing and maintenance (being stationary, they are particularly vulnerable to soiling from the scourge of those filthy parasitic pigeons that infest our town), but also in commissioning new works. I have no idea how much 'Ecce Homo' in Trafalgar Square cost, but given that the sculptor provided a mere midget I'm sure you will agree we did not get value for money. These days a Gormley, a Caro or even a Mark Reddy (are you familiar with his work?) will cost tens of thousands; money that I am sure you would rather spend on the Underground or more buses.

I have a simple solution.

For a fraction of the cost, I am prepared to come up to London on a daily basis (not weekends) and act as a living statue in any particular square in the city that you designate. Think about it! Not only can you strategically place a 'statue' wherever you need one (how handy to impress visiting dignitaries!), but that statue could change its attire and appearance on a regular basis (costume hire extra).

Let me reassure you that I am very well qualified as a statue, having spent three years at an international circus clown school and then 18 months as a statue-in-training in the piazza at Covent Garden. More recently I gained a bursary to perform as a statue in both Florence and New York. I am very excited at the prospect of this venture as no doubt you are too; one that will not only enliven many of London's more humdrum areas, but also deliver huge savings to you during your tenure as Lord Mayor. I enclose a pro-forma invoice for a 3-month trial period in eager anticipation of your commission.

I remain your obedient servant

*Bob Johnstone*

Bob Johnstone

# Sales Invoice

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Invoice No: BOB 018

From: "Treetops" Spitfire Base, South Croydon, Surrey

Qty	Description	Amount exclusive of V.A.T. £	V.A.T. Net £
	<i>Appearing as a living statue on a daily basis (Mon - Fri only) for a period not exceeding 3 months, in and around central London (suburbs negotiable)</i>		
	<i>June - August 2005: 65 days @ £75 per day</i>		<i>£4875.00</i>
	<i>Travel expenses (Off Peak) 65 days @ £6 per day travelcard</i>		<i>£390.00</i>
	<i>Normal attire will be provided F.O.B.</i>		
	<i>Any special requirements (Military uniform, period dress etc) will be quoted separately per item specified</i>		
	<i>Personal insurance, covering interference, molestation and/or physical assault, but not including verbal taunts or abuse.</i>		<i>£45.00</i>
	<i>Cheques payable to Bob Johnstone</i>		

Sub total exc. V.A.T.£

V.A.T.£

Total due£

**£5310**

V.A.T. rate.....

Payment terms.....

Tax Point .....

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

Bob Johnstone  
'Treetops'  
58 Spitfire Close  
South Croydon  
Surrey

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

**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 3 May  
Re-sent: 3 June

Dear Mr. Johnstone

Thank you very much for your recent letter to the Mayor concerning the cost of maintaining statues and your kind offer to work as a living statue. Please accept my reply on Mr. Livingstone's behalf.

Your idea is interesting and we will keep your details on file should the occasion arise where your services would be appropriate.

Thank you for writing and showing your interest and taking the time to write to the Mayor.

Yours sincerely



**Sarah Atkinson**  
Cultural Strategy Administration Officer

**“TREETOPS”, 58 SPITFIRE CLOSE, SOUTH CROYDON, SURREY**

Sarah Atkinson  
Cultural Strategy Administration Officer  
Mayor’s Office, Greater London Authority  
City Hall, The Queen’s Walk  
London SE1 2AA

Dear Sarah

Thank you so much for your encouraging letter. I had almost given up hope of a reply, but then your kind and thoughtful note popped through my letterbox! How silly of me to imagine that Mr Livingstone would have time to respond in person. How busy he must be with new schemes for taxing Londoners. I should have stopped to think how a man of his huge responsibilities must have a big team to whom he can delegate many matters.

I am absolutely thrilled that you are interested in my London’s Living Statues™ idea, and fully understand that you want to keep the launch back for the right occasion. However, in my experience, Sarah, wonderful ideas can get forgotten in a bottom drawer unless definite plans are made whilst everyone is still filled with enthusiasm. Sadly occasions don’t just arise – they have to be scheduled and put in everyone’s diaries. In the case of Mr Livingstone, probably some weeks in advance.

So I’ve been doing some research on your behalf and have come up with a selection of suitable occasions that I think would be ideal for the London’s Living Statues™ launch – or ‘unveiling’ as I prefer to call it. Here are some to choose from:

26th July: George Bernard Shaw born in 1856  
7th August: Act of Parliament in 1840 to stop the use of boys as chimney sweeps  
29th Sept: Horatio Nelson born in 1758  
5th Oct: The world’s first bathing costume on sale in London in 1830

I am sure you can see how each of these events would provide wonderfully inspiring subjects for an unveiling, although modelling a costume by the Serpentine in October might prove rather chilly! Anyway if you could let me know which you prefer, I will set to work on the appropriate costume straight away.

By the way, I am greatly taken with your logo, and have decided to adopt one of my own. I hope this doesn’t break any trademarks of yours!

Yours sincerely



BOB **JOHNSTONE**