

**His Excellency President Hugo Chavez**

Office of the President  
Caracas  
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

**Our ref:** SPS

**Date:**

Your Excellency President Chavez

Please accept my warmest greetings on behalf of the Greater London Authority and the people of London.

I have long had the greatest admiration for the extraordinary courage and tenacity with which you have acted to improve the lives of the people of Venezuela and resolutely resisted external pressures to alter the just and progressive course of your government.

Your programmes to improve the health and education of the poorest sections of your society and your determination to ensure that land and other assets are fully used for the good of the people have been widely reported in Europe.

In London we have large Latin American and Caribbean communities and we have been deeply moved by your country's initiative, in partnership with Cuba, to provide free eye care to many who would not otherwise have access to it in the Caribbean.

As Mayor of London, I believe that our countries and our capital cities have much to learn from one another and that strengthening our mutual relations will benefit all of our citizens.

I have asked my representative, Redmond O'Neill, to utilise his time in your capital city to explore how such links can be developed.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit London. I can assure you of a warm welcome – your courage and tenacity have won many admirers in our city.

Yours sincerely

**Ken Livingstone**  
Mayor of London

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