



Dear Sirs,

We are writing with reference to our recent correspondence regarding the city. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to agree to your terms and we do not accept the premise of your argument.

Throughout our long and mutually fruitful relationship, you have consciously and decisively created an increasingly hostile environment. As time has passed, our resources have been used callously against us, and we have been forced to collude in a system that we do not condone in order to merely survive. We believe this system to be not only highly detrimental to the welfare of our cohort but also broadly devastating to the whole city in a long-term sense.

You have made decisions without us in mind, and as a result, the city space does not accommodate us. Our bodies are not even considered, let alone prioritised. We are not safe, we cannot thrive. These decisions you have made are deeply unethical, and they uphold a power structure that places yourselves as the paramount benefactors. We watch your feeble gestures towards inclusion with exhaustion. We are tired of seeing box ticking and the bare minimum effort as the norm. We have pleaded instead for a holistic approach that centres on a healthy ecosystem, one that will certainly benefit you but will not benefit you alone. You have failed repeatedly to show any signs of adopting this approach.

You have asked us to stop destroying the pavement because it is expensive to repair, and it upsets the flow of traffic and people getting to work. We cannot abide by this request. It is in our nature, dear sirs, and even if we could change it, we shouldn't have to bend to accommodate the city, particularly when it does so little to accommodate us. We have been here far longer than the pavements. Once again, you have chosen to work without us in mind, and you have come unstuck.

We would like to address your point regarding your parks. We appreciate that the city contains opportunities for some of us to live reasonably happy and fulfilled lives, yet we must state the obvious, fulfilment for some does not equal fulfilment for all. Your selective cultivation is insincere and frankly patronising. We are well aware that you will rip out anything that you perceive to be deviant or in your way, and you reject our wild and natural states of being. We know that when you engage in growing a green space it is because you are either legally obligated, or it is simply because you like to look at us. Do not insult our intelligence by suggesting that your fondness for us represents anything other than a fetish. We know how you covet our image and we have learned that you even have plastic models of us in your offices.

For too long you have attempted to control and dictate where we grow, denying our autonomy and our intrinsic value to the ecosystem. Who do you think forms the clothing on your back, makes the food on your table, and cleans the air you breathe? Let us speak plainly: we do not desire a place in your world, it is the fact that you think it is your world that is entirely the problem. You grossly overestimate your position, dear sirs.

As you have witnessed, you bury us and yet still we grow. Your tarmac will be broken. Your traffic will be disrupted. Your flower beds will run wild. You cannot deny what has always been here, and what will continue to be here when you are gone. Until then, you will find us in the cracks. We are dormant underground and light on the breeze. We will remain in spite of you, and beyond you.

We trust this letter answers your queries and please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of any further assistance.