

John Sumner

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th of November.

Dear Prime Minister,

I feel very guilty not to have written earlier to thank you for the quite undeserved gift. Penny and I did not expect it and yet we have both enjoyed the smoked salmon and Chablis enormously. We have been eating and drinking your present entirely selfishly — just the two of us. It has been a great joy. Thank you very much. I do so enjoy helping with the speeches that we felt a bit of a cheat! Food and wine on top!

It really was a different speech this year. We were helping a different person and the peroration could not have been said by anyone else but you. It is not easy to congratulate a Prime Minister without the danger of flattery — nonetheless we all felt that new dimension. Thank you for it.

Yours ever
John