



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

18 January 2023

Alumni for Free Speech

By email to: ANeish@4pumpcourt.com

Dear *Alumni for free Speech*

Thank you for your letter in relation to the planned screening of the documentary *Adult Human Female* at the University.

The University is clear in our commitment to upholding freedom of expression and academic freedom, and facilitating an environment where all are able to inquire, study, and debate. Freedom of expression is a vital component of an open and democratic society, and the individual freedoms of those who are part of it. It is also fundamental to the University's purpose: that our graduates, and the knowledge we discover with our partners, will make the world a better place.

A challenging environment need not be a hostile one, and our staff and students are expected to comply with the University's relevant standards of behaviour in all circumstances. While the University cannot comment on individual cases involving staff or students, where it considers these standards may have been breached, it will consider appropriate action.

In addressing these issues, the University is very conscious of its various legal duties in this area, and these are set out in detail in our statement on freedom of expression to which your letter refers.

In the case of the event in question, the University followed its processes in relation to the planning of this event, which included engaging with relevant stakeholders across the University community, including security colleagues. While those plans cannot account for every eventuality, the event was subject to considerable review and a number of measures were put in place prior to the planned screening.

As our priority is the safety of staff, students and visitors on campus, when it became clear that safety could no longer be guaranteed for all present it was decided that the event should not continue on that day. In terms of the rescheduling of this particular event, that will be discussed with the organisers and, as with any event we hold at the University, we will carefully consider all matters in relation to the health, safety and wellbeing of attendees, and our other relevant legal duties.

Thank you again for your ongoing engagement in the University community.

Yours sincerely,

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