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16th February 2021

Dear Mr Young

Thank you for your letter of 12 February 2021.

The decision by the Student's Guild temporarily to pause on-line events with external speakers was taken in agreement with the University. The decision was taken in order to allow time to develop a more robust risk assessment process for on-line events, following concerns raised within both the Guild and the University that the existing risk assessment process was inadequate and had led to events being changed with late notice, postponed or cancelled unnecessarily.

The pause will be brief and is not driven by any desire to cancel speakers or suppress freedom of expression, but rather to ensure that events with external speakers are able to go ahead in a legal and safe manner. This has been clearly explained to the Guild's societies.

The Guild and the University have consistently sought to encourage freedom of expression within the law through debate and we believe we have a strong track record in this area. We are fully in agreement with the Office for Students that students should be exposed to new and challenging ideas and that this is a key part of providing a high quality educational experience. The current review of on-line event risk assessment is designed to ensure this continues to happen.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. O. Roberts".

Professor Lisa Roberts
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Blake".

Sunday Blake
President, Students' Guild