



Date: 6th June 2013  
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Dear

Thank you for your emails and Freedom of Information Act (FOI) request dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The leader has asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

Officers will formally respond to your freedom of information request and will supply the information you have asked for as soon as possible.

We have now taken the booking for this event, and unless there are any significant changes we anticipate it will go ahead.

We have received a number of comments on this event, both in support and some expressing concerns. We take all comments seriously and have been in detailed conversations with the event organisers regarding the event. Officers have sought, and have received assurance, that the organisers would not exclude any group or individual, and that the content of the event won't constitute any significant offense or incitement. We asked for, and have received, specific assurance at avoiding any suggestion, directly or otherwise, that transgender individuals would not be welcome.

We have tried to balance a number of interests, including the potential impacts on different protected groups. The people involved and attending are a protected group, and we have considered this against the general public interest and the potential effect on other protected groups. Our legal obligations under the equalities act have also been considered carefully.

I can also assure you that apart from dealing with additional correspondence on the matter, we have not used any Council or public funds to support the event, nor will we be promoting or advertising the event. Like many activities, it is a private hire of a much used venue.

Officers will write to you as soon as possible with the additional information we can provide under your FOI request. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Dean', enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

**Fiona Dean**

Assistant Director for Culture & Customer Services