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Andrew Brown
Scrutiny Officer
Oxford City Council
Law & Governance
St. Aldate's Chambers
St. Aldate's
Oxford
OX1 1DS



21st October 2015

Dear Mr Brown

## **Public Space Protection Order**

Thank you for your email to Andrew Mackie of 19th October enclosing the invitation to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2nd November. I am sorry I will unable to attend on that date, but hope that this letter clarifies the University's concerns about the extent of land to be included in the Order.

A local authority has the power to make a Public Space Protection Order ("PSPO") if the following two conditions are met:

- 1. that activities that are or are likely to be carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had or will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; and
- 2. that the activities are of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

The area to be covered by the PSPO includes the University Parks; the University Science Area and the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

Although all of these sites meet the definition in the legislation of 'public place', the sites are also the property of the University and are open to the public by the University's permission. There are no public rights of way through these sites and the sites are closed to the public for at least one day every year.

The sites are managed by University employees from the Parks Department, Facilities Management and Security Services. None of these teams are aware of any activities which have been or are being carried on or within the University's land which have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

The University also considers that the land is appropriately managed at present by on-site teams who respond rapidly to any issues and have robust procedures in place to prevent detrimental activities taking place within the University's property.

If the City Council has concerns about the potential for detrimental activities to take place on University owned sites in the future, we will be happy to provide the City Council with appropriate details of our security management plans for our sites.



The University therefore considers that the conditions for imposing a PSPO on University land are not met and that the Scrutiny Committee should therefore recommend that the University's land is excluded from the Order.

Yours sincerely

Paul Goffin,

**Director of Estates**