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**Department: Facilities Management**  
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Date: 19 June 2025

Dear ██████████

**RE: Application for use of Parliament Square Gardens 13/09/2025**

The Greater London Authority has received your application for use of Parliament Square Gardens (PSG) on the 13/09/25 for your Free Speech Festival. Based on the considerations below, we are unable to authorise use of PSG for the proposed activity.

As specified in the application form, in exercising its discretion on whether to grant permission for use of PSG, the GLA has specific regard to any breaches of terms of conditions by an organiser in relation to previously authorised events, and any complaints or other issues arising from events previously held by the organiser on the spaces managed by the GLA.

Breaches of the terms of authorisation, at a previous rally held on Saturday 27 July 2024 at Trafalgar Square have accordingly been taken into account when considering this application.

These breaches include:

1. Permitted timing was not adhered to. The stage content ran from 13:10 to 17:30, this exceeded the 3 hours running time permitted for rallies taking place on the Square (the authorisation notice specified the duration of the rally as being from 14:00 to 17:00).
2. Direction from the Heritage Wardens was not followed in regards to adherence to scheduled timings.
3. The authorisation required fencing to be in place around the fountains, this was not installed on the day as required (see paragraph 7 of the authorisation notice).
4. Money was collected during the rally, permission was not requested nor given to collect or solicit money.

In addition:

5. It came to our attention that during the rally a documentary film, entitled *Silenced*, was shown. We understand that the film contained material which had been found by the Court to be libellous and that you had been ordered by the Court not to repeat the libellous claims contained within it. By showing the film at the rally on 27 July 2024 you breached the order of the Court, and were convicted for contempt of court for doing so.

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6. The documentary that was shown had not been age certified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC), or the local authority, which a requirement of the Licensing Act.

Whilst we support peaceful assembly, it is necessary for all users of the Squares to comply in full with relevant laws, authorisations and directions regulating the use of the Square.

I must also draw to your attention that the GLA is a public authority subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in section 149 Equality Act 2010. This means that when considering applications for authorisation the GLA is required to have regard to any potential impacts of its decision on people with protected characteristics within the meaning of that Act, including religion. There is also within the terms and conditions a provision (paragraph 1.11) that states *[T] the Activity must not contain anything, which might reasonably cause offence.*

We received complaints from members of the public relating to the event on 27 July 2024, including about the use of foul language by speakers which could be heard outside Trafalgar Square by members of the public who found it offensive. We have also reviewed a transcript of the speeches given at the event, which expressed views relating to refugees, religious groups and LGBTQ+ communities which were offensive.

In addition to the breaches of the terms of authorisation we have had regard to these complaints and the conditions of the previously authorised Activity in exercising our discretion to decline the proposed activity.

Yours sincerely,

