

22nd December 2023

Dear Pascal

Over the seven months that we have been Trustees of the North Mymms Youth and Community Centre, we have repeatedly been dismayed by your lack of candour towards the parents whose interests you should be protecting.

- On taking office in May, we found that you had not notified your parents that you had been given notice by previous Trustees that your license was expiring in July.
- In June, you declined our offer to renew your license on new terms, and instead agreed to an alternative extension of just one term, until Christmas. As you know, we agreed this with a view to giving parents a term in which to make alternative arrangements since you had not told them that your license was expiring. We stated then *“Please understand that if we do grant this temporary license for the coming autumn term, it will not be further renewed, we will not be open to further negotiation with you, and we would require you to have cleared the building by the end of 2023”*. You gave written agreement to this on June 27 2023.
- This month we discovered that you apparently continued to withhold this information from parents and indeed went on to invoice them for next term when you knew you had no authority to use the building.

Our dismay has deepened in the last few days. On 18 December, we responded in writing to your request for an ongoing license for two terms. This request was ostensibly made with a view to mitigating the crisis that you had caused by not telling parents about the end of your license this month. We explained that because of essential work to deal with asbestos in the building and other commitments we had made, we could not agree to this. We expressed concern for parents and staff and agreed to discuss with our committee, solicitor and contractors whether we could make any alternative offer to you. We stressed that we might not be able to make any offer at all, and that if we did it would be a very limited one restricted to a small number of children in part of the building, over a short fixed period.

As a precondition of us exploring these possibilities, we required you to tell your parents in writing the specific information here, which we had included in bold in our letter:

“We are therefore not in a position to offer you a further two terms as you propose. We trust that you will now pass on this information to your parents whilst they still have a few days before Christmas to make contact with other nurseries. Our understanding is that there are currently a number of nurseries nearby which still have available places. [and in respect of the possibility of a limited offer being made] If you are interested in this possibility it is therefore essential that you now candidly appraise the limited number of parents and staff to whom this provision might apply that there is no guarantee that we will ultimately be able to make any such offer and that if we are able to do so, it may not be possible for it to be put into place at the very start of term. They should therefore not defer seeking alternative placements for their children.”

You sent us written confirmation to say that you had done this so we proceeded to look into this. In the mean time, we have not made any offer to you.

The Committee met today and considered how to move forward. Over recent days we have been contacting those nurseries within a 5 mile radius of Willowbrook that are still open and we are moderately confident that there are sufficient vacancies locally to accommodate your parents' range of needs, (and also a range of staff vacancies). We fully recognise and regret that these alternatives may be suboptimal in various ways, and not what parents would have chosen. We also recognise that most nurseries are now closed for Christmas and that whilst some parents have already found alternatives, the remainder of parents cannot now make arrangements until the New Year. In deciding how to deal with this crisis, the Committee shared our grave reluctance to continue doing any business with you. However, the Committee has agreed, in the interests of trying to give parents a stop-gap in which to find alternative provision, that you may continue to provide a service in our Centre to any parents still needing this, until 11 February 2024. This cannot be in the whole of the building (see below) and you will have limited storage. Essential safety work and other building work will be ongoing in the building during this period. If you take up this offer, we will work with you to ensure that health and safety and safeguarding requirements are met, but this will necessarily involve inconvenience on all sides. We are not seeking to profit from this arrangement and will be proposing only a very modest charge for this usage.

Please let us know by 29 December 2023 if you wish to take up this offer and we can go through the details and provide further information. If you do not wish to take up this offer, then your license ends today, and you have until January 8 to clear the building, under the terms previously agreed.

In view of the history, and in the interests of avoiding any further doubt amongst parents and other stakeholders, we will be publishing this letter on our website.

Kind regards

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Trustees
North Myms Youth and Community Centre
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NORTH MYMMS COMMUNITY CENTRE

