

1/3

178:



The University of Nottingham

Mr Riswaan Sabir

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Nottingham

[Redacted]

4 August 2008

Registrar
Dr Paul Greatrix

University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

Tel +44 (0)115 951 5761
Fax +44 (0)115 951 5739

Email paul.greatrix@nottingham.ac.uk
www.nottingham.ac.uk

Dear Mr Sabir

Meeting on 15th July 2008

I write to confirm the substance of our meeting of 15th July 2008, at which Professor Andreas Bieler from the School of Politics and Gary Stevens, the Head of Security, were present.

As you are aware, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss your recent arrest, detention and subsequent release without charge following the discovery of an Al Qaeda Training Manual on a computer used by a member of staff, Hicham Yezza, in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. I did at the commencement of this meeting explain the reason for the meeting and this included the fact that I wanted you to tell me how the recent sequence of events may have affected your welfare and studies at this University.

I explained to you the University's position in relation to the discovery of the manual, our understanding of your involvement in the presence of this document and of the reasons why the University had decided to take the action it did following discovery. I also told you that I had been informed by the Police that it was illegal for you to possess this type of material in the UK and that their view was that the material seized contained tactical information of use to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.

I noted that you had been released without charge and told you that I was aware of the contents of the letter the Police had issued to you on your release. In particular, I noted their description of the information it contained, the University's view regarding your possession of it, and the consequences of you being found in possession of a further copy of this material in future. I also informed you that in deciding on the contents of your release letter the Police had examined all the evidence available to them including statements taken from several members of University staff, including in the School of Politics.

On the points above, I noted that you disagreed with the Police view regarding their description of the material, that you were critical of the length of time it had taken to hold this meeting and that you had assumed the meeting had been arranged for the University to apologise to you and Hicham Yezza regarding your ordeal. I pointed out to you that it was you who had sent the illegal document and that it was you who had delayed the timing of this meeting. As you were well aware, my PA had made several attempts to organise this meeting with you at an earlier date following your release from custody although your commitments prevented this.

178

1/3

- 2 -



The University of
Nottingham

We then discussed the availability of illegal and sensitive documents on the internet as you had commented that you had freely downloaded the manual from a US Justice website. You will recall that at this point I used an analogy regarding the use of child pornography which is also available on the internet but is still nevertheless illegal.

While I do sympathise with you in relation to your ordeal it remains my view that these events could have been avoided had you liaised with, and been advised by, the School of Politics in relation to your intended use of such material in your MA dissertation and in your PhD application. I commented that it would now be a matter for the School of Politics Research Ethics Committee to consider the issues to ensure that you, and the School, do everything possible to ensure that the University is not left in this position again. I note that you and Professor Bieler asked me about my view on you citing the document during your current and intended studies and I advised that you should adhere to the letter issued to you by the Police.

The investigation following your arrest did raise certain issues in relation to your misuse of University facilities and I am satisfied that your activities could have warranted further action under the Code of Discipline for Students. I have however, taken into consideration your time spent in custody and the representations you have made to me in relation to the affect this ordeal has had on your private life and international travel and I have decided not to take any formal action against you under the Code.

I have noted your request for the University to support Hicham Yezza in relation to the charge he is currently facing on Immigration matters and I also note your view that the University's relationship with the Muslim student community will be affected if we do not. I pointed out that we have no control over the Police investigation into this matter although I did comment that the Vice-Chancellor had, as described in the Portal statements, written to the Home Office requesting due process. Beyond that the University is powerless to interfere with an ongoing matter. I note that since our meeting the Courts have decided that there is a case to answer on the Immigration matters and that this has now been referred to the Crown Court.

I would like reiterate my final comments at the meeting and put on record that we should all do everything possible to avoid a recurrence of this unfortunate incident and to wish you all the very best in your continued studies at the University. I do hope that the residual problems you have described, especially international travel, will subside. I also wish to take this opportunity of reminding you that the University has a wide range of Student Services, including a professional Counselling Service, that are available to you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Paul Greatrix
Registrar

