



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

**Estates Department**

The University of Edinburgh  
9 Infirmary Street  
Edinburgh EH1 1NP

Tel 0131 650 9157

[www.estates.ed.ac.uk](http://www.estates.ed.ac.uk)

Paul Lawrence  
Executive Director of Place  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Level 2.6 Waverley Court  
4 East Market Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8BG

Email: [Grant.Ferguson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Grant.Ferguson@ed.ac.uk)  
Direct Dial: 0131 6502497

1 April 2021

Dear Paul

**City of Edinburgh Council's consultation on retaining the 'Spaces for People' measures**

I write on behalf of the University of Edinburgh in relation to the City of Edinburgh Council's consultation on retaining the 'Spaces for People' measures. This email follows my earlier letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 which offered our support for measures under development at that time, and highlighted routes which were in need of such measures to support our students and staff who continue to need to travel to and around our Estate. We have noted that there is a Business Survey to provide feedback, however we would be grateful if you would accept this email as our response. The population size and geographic spread of the University made it difficult to provide representative response to the Business Survey questions.

Since last May we have welcomed the implementation of measures to support walking and cycling to all of our main campuses at BioQuarter, Western General, Central Area and King's Buildings. These have provided safer cycling routes for staff and students engaged in essential research, some of which is directly associated with COVID-19. The measures also provided essential support for walking and cycling during Semester 1 of 2020-21 when our blended teaching model meant that students and staff needed to travel to engage in face to face teaching. In particular we have been grateful for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposals for the Potterrow to King's Buildings route. This route is heavily used by students and staff, in addition to non-university commuters.

We offer our full support to the City of Edinburgh Council to retain, and indeed where possible, to improve and extend 'Spaces for People' measures. As our focus now turns towards planning for September 2021, we are currently anticipating a return to a blended teaching model of face to face and online delivery. We expect that social distancing measures will still be necessary, and thus there will continue to be a reduced capacity public transport network, and that we will continue to be unable to operate our shuttle bus service between the city centre and King's Buildings. Pre-pandemic 55% of our students and staff walked or cycled to work/study, and 28% used bus and tram (of a total population size of 15,000 staff, 38,000 students). The KB to central route has seen a huge growth in cycling over



Interim Director of Estates: Grant Ferguson  
The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336

the last 5 years and we expect that to increase again significantly with the return of students to Edinburgh on a large scale in September. Our expectation is that there will be a modal shift from bus/tram to active travel, and we wish to dissuade a shift towards to private car. The ongoing provision of safer walking and cycling routes is going to be essential to enable and support this. “

Yours faithfully



Grant Ferguson  
Interim Director of Estates