

**From: Donna Speed <Donna.Speed@wethecurious.org>**

**Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2025 22:32**

**To: ACORN Bristol <bristol@acorntheunion.org.uk>**

**Cc: Pip Ross <Pip.Ross@wethecurious.org>**

**Subject: Re: ACORN at we the curious**

Dear Acorn,

I am writing to formally address the events that took place at We The Curious today during your protest action on our premises.

Despite an initial agreement to engage in a peaceful protest and agreement to meet me and our Chair in August to discuss your concerns, which you accepted and confirmed you were satisfied, your group instead chose to pursue a course of disruptive and distressing action that breached that understanding and caused serious concern for wellbeing and safeguarding of our staff and visitors.

Your group proceeded to spread misinformation about We The Curious and several individuals made deeply inappropriate and intimidating accusations.

The behaviour of your group, including filming without consent, targeting staff and visitors with aggression and occupying the space in a manner that led to safeguarding concerns, forced us to make the difficult decision to close the venue early. This causes distress to our team, disrupted the experience for visitors, and compounded the financial damage caused by the forced entry.

We were particularly disturbed to learn that We the Curious was targeted because we were perceived as an 'easy target' that 'get coverage'. This reasoning shared by some of the protesters on the day, is both cynical and shameful. It demonstrates a disregard for the mission and values of the charity, and for the rights and experiences of the families and children who were present.

Let me be clear: We The Curious is a registered educational charity. We are transparent about our funding sources. We are not in receipt of funding from any arms company and have not been since the historic donation, but nonetheless we are reviewing our funding policy, which will be published following our board meeting. Similarly, we do host events such as a recent AXA booking on a dry hire basis, we do not endorse the positions or operations of those that hire our facilities. This is also being reviewed.

In contrast to your actions, our organisation leads with curiosity, respect and openness. We have always welcomed dialogue and welcomed an invitation to meet

in August to listen and respond constructively. This still stands.

However, your group's conduct today crossed a line. As a result, ACORN members are no longer welcome to protest here. We are a private property and reserve the right to refuse access to any group or individual whose behaviour endangers or intimidates others, or who violates our values of inclusivity, safety and respect.

We deeply regret that today's opportunity for meaningful connection and discussion was replaced by an orchestrated disruption. We will review our security arrangements to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors and taking all necessary legal and operational steps to prevent a repeat of this incident.

We hope you will reflect on the impact of your actions, not only on our charity and team, but in the families and young people who were denied access to a place of learning and discovery today. The financial damage and emotional toll caused by this event cannot be overstated. The behaviours displayed were not only unacceptable but shameful, and has no place in a space built on community, connection and curiosity.

Yours sincerely

Donna

**Donna Speed**

**CEO**

**[We The Curious](#)**

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