

West Bridgford Wire

Marilyn Manson: Council leader to write to Home Secretary over Nottingham gig



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Joe Locker

The leader of Nottingham City Council says she will be writing to the Home Secretary regarding concerns over the upcoming UK tour of heavy metal star Marilyn Manson – and said legal advice is being taken over a decision to host his gig at the Motorpoint Arena in November.

Manson, whose real name is Brian Warner, is due to perform at the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham on 2 November as part of his 'One Assassination Under God' tour.

The first event in Manson's UK tour, which was due to take place in Brighton on 26 October, was cancelled in June after pressure from campaigners and an MP in relation to unproven allegations against the singer.

Male Allies Challenging Sexism (MACS) campaigners and Nottingham city councillors have now called for the event at the council-owned Motorpoint Arena to be cancelled.

- Campaigners call for Marilyn Manson gig in Nottingham to be cancelled



Alex Norris, Labour MP for Nottingham North and Kimberley, has also written to arena bosses asking for the booking to be looked at again.

Cllr Neghat Khan (Lab), the leader of the council, said the authority's leadership "stands against violence against women and girls" – and pledged to write to the Home Secretary regarding the concerns.

However, she said the council was taking legal advice in relation to a decision over the Nottingham event, noting the authority had previously spent more than £10,000 on legal fees and a settlement after 'unlawfully' cancelling a talk by activist Julie Bindel at one of its libraries.

Ms Bindel, a feminist campaigner and author, had her talk at Aspley Library cancelled in June 2022 by the council due to her views on transgender rights.

After taking legal action and engaging in three months of pre-action correspondence, the parties reached agreement on mutually acceptable terms.

The council apologised to Ms Bindel and admitted it had acted "unlawfully" in cancelling her talk, and a Freedom of Information request submitted by the Local Democracy Reporting Service at the time revealed the council spent £10,680 on legal fees and provided a £569.99 "settlement".

"The problem is when we had the Julie Bindel situation at the library, we had to do a public apology," Cllr Khan said.

"It got loads of complaints at the time.

"We've had our fingers burnt. We are not getting in that situation again. We have asked for legal advice internally.

"At the moment, the stance is that I've put the statement out to say it is not really our decision. We are not in a position where we want to pay compensation.

"It is reputationally bad for us. I get other local authorities have done it. We are seeking further legal advice – but I will be writing to the Home Secretary."

A spokesperson for Motorpoint Arena declined to comment.