



Henry Edwards-Wood  
Long Live Southbank  
57 Poland Street  
London W1F 7NW

Alan Bishop  
Southbank Centre  
Belvedere Road  
London SE1 8XX

17<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Dear Alan,

We would like to address some matters of concern regarding the Undercroft which have been raised by our members. The first matter concerns the issue of illumination.

It has come to our attention that the majority of the lights in the Undercroft skate space have been switched off each day after sunset for the past week, thus placing the area into almost complete darkness.

It is our understanding that the Southbank Centre has a duty of responsibility to comply to its Health and Safety policies, and to ensure its entire site is safe for staff, users and visitors alike, especially given that the site is open to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

While we would like to believe it is not the Southbank Centre's intention to deliberately create an unsafe area, I'm sure you can agree that this action has the potential to create unnecessary danger in the Undercroft. The additional consequence is rendering the Undercroft unusable by making skateboarding and other urban activities practiced daily nigh-on impossible, not to mention potentially dangerous in the pitch black.

Could you please notify us as to why the Undercroft has been specifically targeted in having the lighting switched off?

On a separate but connected matter, we have noted the Wahaca van has moved its position gradually over the summer to now be stationed directly in front of the east end of the Undercroft. The use of wire fencing barriers has also increased and now blocks access to the skate area completely from that entrance. Its current position also means the smoke from the van is regularly blown into the Undercroft. The position of the van, and the barriers (as well as the electrical cables) have the effect of interrupting and affecting the use of the Undercroft (both by skaters, BMX'ers, and viewers, as well as others). It was not in this position a few months ago, and the obvious inference (along with turning the lights off) is that this is being done to affect the use of the Undercroft. Please confirm whether this is part of a deliberate policy. And also please confirm that the van is put back in a position that does not affect the use of the Undercroft.

Finally, we have noted that the Southbank Centre has published materials, including a banner above the Undercroft space, which states the Southbank Centre will be “re-opening a large skate space 120m upriver”. As you are aware, this statement is factually incorrect and is misleading the public and anyone else who reads it. We request that you remove any materials containing this misinformation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Edwards-Wood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Henry Edwards-Wood

On behalf of the Long Live Southbank members and supporters