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Dear Rosie, Joe, Louise, Bintu and colleagues,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 6 November 2013 to Stephen Donaldson, concerning your request that the University terminate financial links with the fossil fuel industry. The Executive Team has considered carefully and declined your request. I know this will be disappointing news and hope that the following explanation of why this is the case, will be helpful.

The University is not fundamentally a campaigning organisation and does not seek to take positions on sensitive or controversial issues which do not further clearly and directly our charitable purposes (namely education, research and ancillary activities). More often than not, we find that the University is better able to make a positive impact through engagement, discussion and, indeed, the outputs of its academic endeavours. We adopt this approach rather than making public statements, because statements can risk disaffecting others and curtailing constructive dialogue, which is itself a cornerstone of successful academic discourse.

Yours sincerely,

  
Brian Summers