

06 March 2020

Notice of Event Cancellation – FIRST Tech Challenge UK Championship

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with regret that FIRST UK, organiser of the FIRST Tech Challenge UK Championship, has had to cancel the event scheduled to take place on **27-28 March 2020**. This difficult decision was taken due to widespread concerns around the impact of coronavirus (Covid-19) on the schools, industry partners and volunteers who make this event possible.

On behalf of the participating organisations, we request that any and all costs associated with attendance to this event be refunded in entirety. The circumstances leading to event cancellation were unforeseeable at the time of booking. It should be further noted that this was a charity organised event serving young people – many of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds and who had worked hard to fundraise in order to participate – we kindly ask for your due consideration in this regard when reviewing any booking conditions which may apply in other scenarios.

Reason for cancellation

The event has been cancelled in response to concerns raised about the propagation of coronavirus (Covid-19) across the UK in coming weeks – alongside emerging advice in respect to large-scale public gatherings. As the virus spreads there is increasing likelihood of bans on school travel, large gatherings and restrictions on travel in the UK. In addition, employers have already begun restricting employee travel, which has led to a shortage of volunteers required to run the event. The risk to young people, teachers, parents, volunteers and charity staff is too great to proceed with the event as planned.

Cancellation not postponement

Projections issued by the UK government and the World Health Organisation suggest the peak spread taking place later in year. The charity does not have confidence the situation will improve sufficiently to commit to an event before the end of the academic year. We have made the decision to cancel the championship rather than offer postponement in order to prevent further disappointment and financial exposure to participants.

Further information

For a full copy of our statement on this decision and supplementary FAQ, please visit <https://www.firstuk.org/coronavirus-ceo-statement/> or contact FIRST UK at hello@firstuk.org.

We thank you for your understanding in this time of uncertainty.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Cervantes-Watson
Chief Executive Officer