

24 May 2024

Dear Students,

Thank you for your email. I am pleased you have reached out following our communication on safety and security on our campus, and the troubling events of 15th and 21 May 2024.

Universities are precisely the places where difficult issues should be debated, and we have a code of practice on free speech to enable students and staff to do so within the law. Universities, including Queen Mary, do not themselves take political positions to ensure that individuals are not discouraged from expressing themselves freely. At the same time, as you know we will not tolerate any form of racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, abuse, incitement, discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of any kind.

Students and staff have a right to protest peacefully. Hence, when you set up your encampment, much as it is unauthorised, we put security measures in place for your safety and security.

In relation to the incident on 21 May, you know the University security attended and intervened. Security also called the police and they attended. We have understood that you refused to engage with the police or make a complaint. You will need to engage with the police to enable them to fully investigate the incident. In line with our usual processes of all unlawful incidents that have occurred we have shared all evidence available to us with the police to support their consideration of this incident.

In relation to our internal policies, as stated in our last student email, where any staff member or student's behaviour breaches any of our University policies we will investigate and act appropriately. With the encampment still in place, the risk to health and safety of all our communities, including yourselves, increased from the incident on the 15th May, and continues to increase daily. For this reason, we ask again for the encampment to disperse as previously requested.

Sincerely,

Dr Sharon Ellis
Chief Operations Officer
Queen Mary University of London