

Dear colleague,

I am writing to update you about the encampment which was occupying the lawn in front of the Queens' Building on the Mile End campus. As you will be aware from my previous emails, the encampment had become a focal point for rallies, involving people external to the University and resulting in criminal damage. Owing to our significant health and safety concerns caused by these rallies, the disruption to ongoing University activities, and the encampment's failure to respond to our repeated requests to disperse, regrettably we had no choice but to pursue a legal route to remove them. Other universities have also followed similar processes.

The University received a court order for the removal of the encampment on 10 July 2024. Representatives from the University have met with encampment members on several occasions. On the morning of 11 July University representatives once again met with encampment members, and asked, again, that they now leave, as directed by the court. The encampment once again refused the University's request to disperse. Unfortunately, this left no option but for the encampment to be evicted (peacefully), as per the court order, this morning.

Queen Mary is exemplary in having student representatives as members of the vast majority of our committees, boards, and other decision-making bodies. We also invest significantly in mechanisms for student voice. We are now engaging with our Students' Union to ensure the wide variety of students' views can be heard through these established mechanisms.

Best wishes  
Colin

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