

Title: Require goldsmiths to ensure proper maintenance of accessible facilities on campus

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This union notes

The Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on the College to make Reasonable Adjustments to remove the barriers that have persisted despite inclusive design and practices.¹

The universities Strategic aim 1 is to 'improve our institutional understanding of the experiences, needs, priorities and concerns of our students, especially those from underrepresented groups'²

The university aims to 'improve our understanding of the needs, experiences, and outcomes of these groups of students at the College.'³

The University is committed to safeguarding the health and safety of its employees, students, visitors, volunteers, contractors and others who are affected by its activities⁴

That the Health and Safety and Fire Safety Advisers have the duty to implement a College-wide program of health and safety audits⁵.

The Approved Document M: access to and use of buildings, volume 2: buildings other than dwellings states (ADM2) that pull cords for emergency alarm systems are coloured red, located as close to a wall as possible and have two red 50mm diameter bangles, one set at 100mm and the other set between 800mm and 1000mm above the floor⁶.

The ADM2 requires that at least one changing places toilet is provided in university buildings⁷.

The ADM2 outlines that suitable sanitary accommodation should be available to everybody, including sanitary accommodation designed for wheelchair users, ambulant disabled people, people of either sex with babies and small children or people encumbered by luggage.⁸

¹ Policy 4.1 - <https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/gam/Disability-Policy.pdf>

² Page 2 -

[https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/documents-by-section/about-us/governance/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2025-29-\(PDF\).pdf](https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/documents-by-section/about-us/governance/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2025-29-(PDF).pdf)

³ Page 6, Objective 2.3 *ibid*

⁴ Page 3. Policy 2. Scope -

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/estates/Health-and-Safety-Policy-and-Procedure.pdf>

⁵ Page 11, Policy 4.11.6. *ibid*

⁶ Page 45, Policy 4.30e

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66f6c5eec71e42688b65ee11/ADM__V2_with_2024_amendments.pdf

⁷ Page 49, Provision 5.7e.i *ibid*

⁸ Page 47, Objective 5.1 *ibid*

The ADM2 requires that any emergency assistance alarm system has visual and audible indicators to confirm that an emergency call has been received; a reset control reachable from a wheelchair and the WC, or from the wheelchair and the shower/ changing seat, alongside a signal that is distinguishable visually and audibly from the fire alarm⁹.

This union believes

Several accessible facilities, specifically sanitary facilities, are not kept maintained to an acceptable standard.

The lack of maintenance of these facilities creates a risk for students and staff at Goldsmiths.

These changes would result in an increased sense of safety and wellbeing of the disabled student body.

Disabled students often feel unsafe using sanitary facilities when they are on campus.

There should be equal access for all students and staff of goldsmiths. All students and staff should have the same opportunity to interact with the campus in a safe manner.

Equip to Excel - Giving others the tools to help themselves. Giving disabled students and staff access to safe facilities will help them be independent and remove barriers other students may not face.

Step up, speak up - Don't be a passive bystander, taking an active approach to contributing to the development of the organisation. Advocating for better conditions for all students is an active approach.

This union resolves

To mandate that the university ensures safety and regulation of its accessible facilities, specifically sanitary facilities, and regularly audits the conditions of all facilities, taking swift action upon discovery of any issues.

⁹ Page 48, Provision 5.4h

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66f6c5eec71e42688b65ee11/ADM__V2_with_2024_amendments.pdf