

Policy Proposal: Bring back security to all student halls on a permanent basis and install CCTV

What would you like the Union to do?

I would like the students union to support this petition and pressure UCL to situate permanent security guards at every student hall and have CCTV installed.

Why would you like to do this?

Currently, there are no security personnel present at any of the UCL halls on a permanent basis. This is a major security risk that has many points of failure.

The students all pay rent for their accommodation. Security is not a privilege but a necessary component, especially when you consider that many of the halls reside younger students.

This is not just about helping people who might get locked out of their rooms and have to wait for security to turn up to let them in.

Students might fall victim to any sort of issue outside or inside of the halls and have to wait for an unknown period for the security team to come around, and bear in mind, these situations can be life threatening.

There are students from different age groups and backgrounds. Some may have disabilities, visible or otherwise, and having to

Major points of concern:

- If someone forgets/loses their phone, or their phone runs out of battery, they will have to wait for a security member to come around, and we don't know how long this will take as the security team roams between the different halls. (I have personally been in a situation where I've had to wait over 40 minutes for security to turn up where there was an urgent issue). I have also witnessed other students having to wait similar times for security response.

- If an incident takes place outside or within the halls, it may not be possible for the victim to reach for their phone. There are simply too many scenarios that cannot be accounted for, and it is not reasonable to think that a roaming security team can handle every possible situation in a timely manner.

- We are in central London, which has a relatively high crime rate. There is also an increasing number of rough sleepers near the UCL halls, some of which may be under the influence of illegal substances, making them very unpredictable and possibly dangerous. (I have personally witnessed them using drugs sitting on the doorsteps.

- The lack of CCTV makes crimes even more likely to take place.

- The students have had to setup chat groups to inform each other of possible security risks around the halls, and it really is not their responsibility to ensure their accommodation is safe and sound.

One of my fellow hall members was held at knife point quite close to the accommodation as there is no CCTV to deter any possible crime.

I have made a petition for the students at the halls to ask for security back, and at the time of writing, we have had 29 students residing at Endsleigh Gardens & John Adams Hall, who have supported this (the only places where this petition has been shown).

There will be many students who support this and have not signed the petition for personal reasons or might not have seen the flyers I've put up.

For reference, the link to the petition is: <https://forms.office.com/r/1HrVYDQMyg>

"Prevention is always better than treatment."

How will this affect students?

The return of security personnel and installation of CCTV will bring a greater sense of security and, in many cases, save student lives.

It will benefit all groups of students living in the halls, but particularly younger and more vulnerable groups as they are more likely to suffer from a lack of security.

It will prevent a lot of crimes and life-threatening scenarios, and will lead to a much more peaceful education experience for the students.