



Claim form for possession of property

In the High Court Of Justice

Chancery Division
Birmingham District Registry

Claim No. 16M30637

Claimant

(name(s) and address(es))

The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT



Defendant(s)

(name(s) and address(es))

Persons Unknown (including Students of the University of Birmingham) entering or remaining upon buildings known as No.2 Lodge, Pritchatts Road, Birmingham for the purpose of protest action (without the consent of the University of Birmingham)
of
No.2 Lodge, Pritchatts Road,
Birmingham

The claimant is claiming possession of:

1. No. 2 Lodge, Pritchatts Road, Birmingham.

2. Further, the Claimant seeks an order that the Defendants shall not, without the prior written consent of the Claimant enter or remain upon land comprising the Claimant's campus and buildings at the University of Birmingham as shown edged red on the Plan A annexed hereto ("the Campus") for the purpose of any occupational protest action.

3. The Claimant is the freehold proprietor of the land shown edged red on Plan A annexed hereto.

4. On 23.11.11, the Defendants, entered upon that part of the Campus known as No. 2 Lodge, Pritchatts Road, Birmingham without the permission or consent of the Claimant and remained upon the said property by way of a 'sit-in' occupational protest, thereby committing a trespass.

5. Further, since 24.11.11, the Defendants have encouraged persons unknown to participate in the ongoing trespass.

6. The Defendants threaten to commit ongoing acts of trespass upon the

Defendant's name and address for service

Persons Unknown
of
No.2 Lodge, Pritchatts Road,
Birmingham

Court fee	£	465.00
Solicitor's costs	£	
Total amount	£	465.00

Issue date

Claim No.	18M30637.
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Claimant's land unless restrained by the Court.

which ~~XXXXXX~~ (does not include) residential property. Full particulars of the claim are attached.
~~XX~~.

This claim will be heard on: _____ at _____ am/pm
at _____

At the hearing

- The court will consider whether or not you must leave the property and, if so, when.
- It will take into account information the claimant provides and any you provide.

What you should do

- Get help and advice immediately from a solicitor or an advice agency.
- Help yourself and the court by **filling in the defence form** and **coming to the hearing** to make sure the court knows all the facts.

Grounds for possession

The claim for possession is made on the following ground(s):

- ☐ rent arrears
- ☐ other breach of tenancy
- ☐ forfeiture of the lease
- ☐ mortgage arrears

Anti-social behaviour

The claimant is alleging:

- ☐ actual or threatened anti-social behaviour
- ☐ actual or threatened use of the property for unlawful purposes

Claim No.

16-130637

☐ other breach of the mortgage☒ trespass☐ other (please specify)

Is the claimant claiming demotion of tenancy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is the claimant claiming an order suspending the right to buy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

See full details in the attached particulars of claim

Does, or will, the claim include any issues under the Human Rights Act 1998?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Statement of Truth

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (The claimant believes) that the facts stated in this claim form are true.

*I am duly authorised by the claimant to sign this statement.

signed  date 24/11/11*(Claimant) ~~XX~~

*delete as appropriate

Full name MARTIN JAMES EDWARDS

Name of claimant's solicitor's firm MARTINEAU

Position or office held PARTNER

(if signing on behalf of firm or company)

Claimant's or
claimant's solicitor's
address to which
documents or payments
should be sent if
different from overleaf.Martineau
No. 1 Colmore Square
Birmingham

Postcode B4 6AA

if applicable

Ref. no.	MKG/MJE/UN4002461
fax no.	0870 763 2001
DX no.	721090 Birmingham 43
e-mail	N/A
Tel. no.	0870 763 2000

"PLAN A"



• The lodge

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

THE ESTATES OFFICE
Eaton West Building
South-West Campus
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
Vigorsquare, BRISTOL, G1 3JT
Tel: 0117 331 4444

Source: *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 1997, 92, 1039-1052.

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402</
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1. Claimant
2. Mr G. S. Richards
3. First
4. GSR1
5. 24.11.11

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY**

CLAIM NO 1BM 30637

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Claimant

-and-

**PERSONS UNKNOWN (INCLUDING STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM) ENTERING OR REMAINING UPON THE BUILDINGS KNOWN AS
No. 2 LODGE PRITCHATTS ROAD, BIRMINGHAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTEST ACTION (WITHOUT THE
CONSENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)**

Defendants

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MR GORDON STUART RICHARDS

I, Mr Gordon Stuart Richards, of the University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT will state as follows:-

1. I am the Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services with responsibility for security and emergency planning, at the University of Birmingham (the "University") and am authorised to make this Witness Statement on behalf of the University in support of the University's application for an order for an injunction and an order for possession, as set out in the Application Notice herein dated 24 November 2011.
2. Insofar as the facts and matters referred to herein are within my own knowledge, they are true and in so far as they not within my own direct knowledge they are true to the

best of my information and belief, acquired in the course of acting in my capacity as the Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services for the University.

The University

3. The University of Birmingham is a leading centre for the study of a wide range of subjects with a good international reputation. The University has more than 25,000 students, 40% of whom are on postgraduate or research programmes.

The Campus

4. The University's main campus is in Edgbaston in Birmingham. I shall refer to this main campus throughout this Witness Statement as "the Campus". The Campus is shown edged red on the Plan attached at page 1 of exhibit "GSR1". A red dot indicated No.2 Lodge Pritchatts Road.
5. The University is the freehold proprietor of the Campus, which is largely unregistered land.
6. As University property is private land, only persons with the licence or consent of the University may enter or remain on the Campus.

The Students at the University

7. The University places a high value on providing its students with a fulfilling education in their chosen discipline. There are a wide range of activities on the Campus and the Campus environment is the focal point for the lives of students attending the University. We therefore seek to ensure that our students have the right environment on the Campus to enable them to settle in and study effectively in a safe environment.

The Occupation

8. No.2 Lodge is a residential property generally occupied by academic or other university staff. The University retains such properties to help relocating staff, visiting academics, or other individuals who generally require accommodation for a short period of time. The previous occupant had vacated the premises on Saturday 19th November 2011 and during the course of this week we would normally have cleaned the property so that it would be available at short notice as and when required.
9. At approximately 12.30 am on Wednesday, 23 November 2011 officers in our security control office were able to see a number of individuals gaining access to No.2 Lodge through a window at the front of the building. The CCTV footage shows the window being opened from the inside and I have to assume that initial access was obtained through a window at the rear of the building which is not covered by CCTV.
10. The University security officers attended No.2 Lodge as soon as possible and entered into dialogue with the occupiers, requesting that they vacate the premises. This request was refused.
11. Initially we were unaware of the total number of occupants but during later discussions established the number to be around 27.
12. The main method of communication with the occupiers has come through reading the social media channels through which they have communicated the occupation and the purpose thereof. Copies of these are exhibited at "GSR2". The Director of Legal Services issued a letter to the occupiers both by e-mail and by hand informing them that they were trespassing and that the University required them to vacate immediately. A copy of this letter is exhibited at "GSR3". Following this exchange the occupiers finally informed us of the seven pledges that they wished the University to give which would then result in their occupation ceasing. The University is not in a position to agree to this.
13. During the course of Wednesday relationships between the supporters who had congregated outside No.2 Lodge and University staff remained cordial. The President of the Guild of Students (the Student Union for the University) was able to talk to the occupiers to confirm that they had access to gas, electricity and running water. Later

that day, after negotiation with me, the President delivered pizzas to the occupants to ensure that they had a satisfactory evening meal. It was at this time that we were able to ascertain the number of occupants as 27 pizzas were ordered.

14. At around 11.30 Wednesday evening a number of the supporters attempted to storm the building and gain access in order to join the occupants. By the very nature of this attempt it brought them into direct contact with our security staff located around the building. During this brief incident an alleged assault took place and the police were called and are investigating: there are rival allegations about what took place between a member of our staff and a student. Since I did not witness what took place I cannot comment upon it further.
15. I arrived shortly after the incident had taken place and remained on site until 2.45 am. Matters were then calm. Numbers of supporters had reduced to 6 from around 30 at the time of my arrival.
16. On Thursday morning I felt the need to get an expert opinion from the University's fire officer, Mr Bryan Eden. I wanted to establish what he considered to be a safe number of people for the size of the building that was being occupied. I asked him to visit No.1 Lodge with me and in the company of the President. No.1 Lodge is a mirror image of No.2 Lodge and, therefore, gives a very good indication of the internal layout. I was also able to furnish him with a detailed plan of No.2 Lodge. After he had inspected the premises he confirmed to me that No.1 Lodge, and by extension No.2 Lodge, complied fully with all fire regulations appertaining to rented domestic properties. He then pointed out that significantly different regulations appertain to student residences and that he was therefore very concerned about the suitability of the property for overnight occupation by students irrespective of the number. He pointed out that No.1 Lodge failed to meet requirements concerning fire doors, emergency lighting, fire fighting equipment and other areas. His comments to me are detailed in his e-mail to me exhibited marked "GSR4".
17. The fire officer's perspective caused me great concern and I arranged to meet with colleagues including the Vice-Chancellor and the Head of Legal Services of the University. We all agreed that in the light of what we had learned we had a duty of care to the occupants which could only be properly observed by insisting that they vacate the

premises. I subsequently wrote a letter to the occupiers which was delivered by e-mail and by hand requesting that they vacate the premises by 3 pm. I set this deadline in order that the vacation could take place in daylight as I felt this would be safer than a vacation in the dark at night. The letter also set out that if they did not leave then legal proceedings would be initiated urgently. A copy of the letter is exhibited marked "GSR5". No response was received, although I believe that the occupiers referred to this possible action in one of their social media channels.

18. I felt that in these circumstances the university had no choice but to seek an immediate injunction and possession order. Regrettably there was not time for me to prepare this witness statement in advance of the hearing that took place shortly after 4.30 pm. I did attend that hearing and gave evidence to the Judge about these matters.
19. One matter that concerned the Judge was that the interim Order sought was to prevent any further occupation on the campus when the students were required to vacate No.2 Lodge. What I said then and I repeat now, was that during a previous occupation about a year ago the occupiers had secured fire exit doors by rope in order to prevent us gaining access to the area that they were occupying. The University's fire officer was in attendance during this incident and he was greatly concerned about the increased risk that this action created. I also mentioned that the social media channels indicated that a meeting of supporters was due to take place to discuss further actions. The implication from this was that the occupation may be relocated or, perhaps more accurately in the circumstances, that further occupations may take place on campus.
20. The occupiers have sought support from various sources amongst the student and staff body of the University and other Universities and are actively seeking support for the occupation.

The Injunction/Possession Order Sought

21. The University in negotiation with the Guild has an agreed protocol to facilitate orderly protest by the student body and has a similar arrangement with the trade unions that represent employees of the University. Indeed, such a protest organised by "UCU" (University and Colleges Union) took place at 1 pm on Wednesday 23rd November

without incident. Occupation is not allowed under the protocol and, indeed, the occupiers have never sought to invoke the protocol in anything that they have done.

22. The occupiers have no right to conduct a 'sit-in' as they are doing. This taking of occupation upon University property is a trespass which extends well beyond the terms on which students are entitled to access upon University property. Furthermore, no student of the University should engage in activity likely to interfere, in the broadest sense, with the proper functioning or activities of the University or those who work or study in the University or undertake action which otherwise damages the University.
23. There is already a risk to health and safety as a result of the unauthorised occupation by the protestors. As others may be encouraged by the occupiers to join the protest, this situation might get worse. My concern is that there is a general risk to the building through the occupation, and to the occupiers themselves, which may worsen if the occupiers remain in occupation.
24. I also request the Court to grant a summary order for possession pursuant to CPR Part 55, with a continued injunction in support thereof.
25. With respect to the possession order, I respectfully request the Court to grant such an order to cover the entirety of the Campus, notwithstanding that the 'sit-in' occupation is currently only in No.2 Lodge to which I have referred. If the Defendants are forced to move from one part of the Campus only, then it is worryingly likely that this will only result in them moving to another part of the Campus.

Undertaking in damages

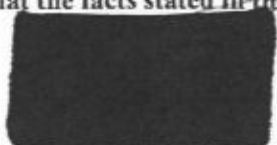
26. I am able to confirm to the Court that the University is aware of the requirement for a cross-undertaking in damages and that the University is able and willing to provide such an undertaking. I am authorised to give this undertaking up to the sum of £25,000, but I can seek authority to give an undertaking in a larger sum if necessary. Obviously, if a final order is granted this will not be required. I cannot envisage any circumstances where significant damages would arise to the students in any event.

Service

27. With respect to service, I have sought an order pursuant to Rule 6.8 of the Civil Procedure Rules that the affixing in conspicuous places around No.2 Lodge because of concern that the occupiers may resist any other form of service.
28. In advance of the without notice hearing my solicitors contacted Public Interest Lawyers, who have stated that they represent some of the occupiers (although not answering our questions as to the name and number of people they represent) and informed them that we were going to Court. They asked that the fact that they wanted to defend the proceedings be communicated to the Court and that they would rely on unspecified aspects of human rights law. This was communicated to the Court, but I am advised that there are no human rights issues relevant to this case. Indeed, I know of no defence to these proceedings or any other reason why it should proceed beyond the summary application to a hearing. I have ensured that all documents have been sent to Public Interest Lawyers to assist them with advising their clients on the nature of the orders made. We do not, in fact, know who their clients are. In this witness statement I have been scrupulous in referring to the "occupiers". I have assumed that most of them are students of the University, but I cannot be sure that they are all students. It would be helpful if the occupiers could be identified by their representatives when this matter comes back to Court.

I believe that the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true.

Signed:



Mr Gordon Stuart Richards

Position:

**Director of Hospitality & Accommodation Services
The University of Birmingham**

Dated

24 November 2011

1. Claimant
2. Mr G. S. Richards
3. First
4. GSR1
5. 24.11.11

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY

CLAIM NO 1BM 30637

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-and-

PERSONS UNKNOWN (INCLUDING STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
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BIRMINGHAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTEST ACTION (WITHOUT THE
CONSENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)

Defendants

EXHIBIT "GSR1"

This is the exhibit "GSR1" to the First Witness Statement of Gordon Stuart Richards dated 24 November 2011.



• The Lodge

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

THE ESTATES OFFICE
 CHANCE HALL BUILDING
 SOUTH WEST CORNER
 THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
 Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT
 Tel: 0121 414 1888

EDUCATION CAMPUS

1. Claimant
2. Mr G. S. Richards
3. First
4. GSR1
5. 24.11.11

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY

CLAIM NO IBM 30637

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Claimant

-and-

PERSONS UNKNOWN (INCLUDING STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
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CONSENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)

Defendants

EXHIBIT "GSR2"

This is the exhibit "GSR2" to the First Witness Statement of Gordon Stuart Richards dated 24 November 2011.

Defend Birmingham

NOVEMBER 23, 2011 · 12:47 AM

In Occupation, this post is updated live.

We have occupied the abandoned former gatehouse of the North Gate of the University of Birmingham. We have done this because despite the university and government taking increasingly regressive measures to make universities inaccessible, we are determined to keep the gates open. Our aim is to advance a set of demands centred on justice in education and educational institutions. We want people to be treated as human beings and the university to be run for public good, not as a business.

We have taken this space as a "free space" on campus, from which we seek to educate ourselves, and all who come into the occupation, to build a stronger movement. We are determined to stay as long we can, we implore the university not to resort to force to remove us [as they did last January](#).

Over the course of the occupation, there will be talks from academics, university workers and students, about cuts, fees and privatisation. You are all invited to come down, join in, and use this space to work, study and put on your own events.

This is the second occupation we have done this term, if you want to get an idea about out what we are about you can see our last occupation on November 2nd [here](#).

23/11/2011

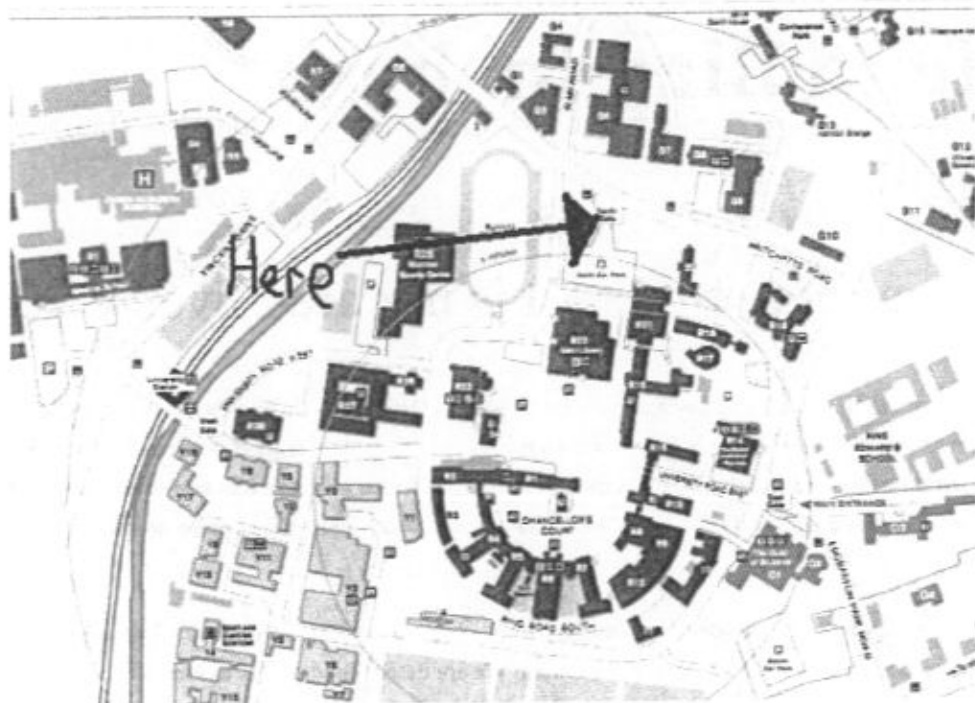
Update 1.33 The university have been pressuring us to leave with senior managers demanding, students make an immediate exit. We have refused and intend to stay.

Update 1.59 The university called the police and asked them to break into our occupation and remove us. The police officer on the scene refused saying it would be "disproportionate" to do so. While we thank the police for being reasonable we don't believe the university's approach is constructive. The police have now left.

Update 3.05 All quiet at the occupation just going to sleep for the night.

Update 3.10 This is where you can find us, come visit we are a friendly bunch 😊

Follow



Come down and visit the University of Birmingham Occupation, we can be found here at the north gate.

Update 3.20

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=169606899801087> The rally tomorrow by the Clocktower will march to the University of Birmingham occupation; once the rally and occupation link up we will debate our goals and demands to give to the university.

Update 7.23

Good morning all, hope you had a good night sleep. Special thanks to the three people who just sent the night outside the occupation being the liaison for security.

Update 9.55

We have access in and out of the building, come down and join in.

Update 10.09

[Why are we in occupation](#), introductory meeting called for the start of the occupation.

Update 11.14

The University of Birmingham are refusing entry in and out of the occupation denying the students access to food and water in an effort to force them out. Call +44 (0)121 414 3344 and ask for Stuart Richards, Brendan Casey or David Eastwood to ask them to facilitate peaceful protest.

Update 11.51

We have just sent the below notice to the university who are blocking access to the occupation.
Dear Lee Sanders, Stuart Richards, Carolyn Pike

RE: Legal notice

We have been informed that the University of Birmingham has blocked all accesses to the North Gate House. This is a legal offence as we have secured our squatting rights to reside in this building. Indeed, if any residents become ill due to your negligence in restraining access to food, water, legal advice and other supplies you will be

Follow

considered liable. Furthermore, such practice constitutes "false imprisonment" and is indeed another infringement on our rights.

We therefore demand that you remove all obstructions immediately.

Yours,

The residents, 1 North Gate House (R), B15 2TT, Birmingham

Update 13:49

A crowd of students and staff have just managed to get through the blockade and have delivered us fresh supplies. Photos soon. Thanks for the solidarity.

Update 14:02

The University of Birmingham Guild of Students, in defiance of the university, has just delivered us food. Thanks guys.

Update 16:34

We have agreed this statement of international solidarity.

We offer solidarity with students, teachers, pupils, parents and education workers who have been fighting the privatisation and marketisation of education; who are fighting for free and emancipatory education. We are with all who are fighting the so called "Bologna-Process;" which is cutting the quality of education all across Europe and robbing Europe's youth of a decent education.

While we take action to build local pressure to change our individual institutions and governments, we must always be aware of the global and structural nature of our problems and learn from each other's tactics, experiences in organizing, and theoretical knowledge. Short-term changes may be achieved on the local level, but great change will only happen if we unite globally.

We are inspired by the students and workers who have lead the struggle against tyranny in the Arab world; who are giving their blood to overthrow the military dictatorship in Egypt right now. The struggles of Greek workers and Chilean students are examples we should seek to emulate.

We back the work of the international students movement which is uniting struggles worldwide and [we back the joint international statement](#).

Update 18:06: In an amazing act of solidarity the Guild of Students have just given to us 27 freshly-baked pizzas (one for each occupier) hand-delivered by the Guild President himself.

Update 19:34

As the occupation continues into the night, the University of Birmingham Guild of Students has now released [this statement of support](#).

update 22:44

new statement in reply to the University of Birmingham

Follow

<http://brumoccupation.wordpress.com/2011/11/23/response-to-the-university-of-birmingham-with-regards-to-our-occupation-reinventing-our-university/>

Update 23:30

A student has just been assaulted. They were punched three times through a open window by a university security guard who seemed to be attempting to force entry into the building. Police called and are now on site.

Update 23:40

The solidarity occupiers on the street outside have been threatened with arrest by university security for 'breach of the peace' and have moved down the road. Police have left after we gave witness statements to the above assault.

24/11/2011

Update 00:03

University security behaving very childish and vindictively. They're now preventing us from sleeping by constantly ringing the door bell, banging on the windows and laughing despite being told to leave us alone.

Update 00:09

Uni security surrounding the building with cameras and torches trying to record us through the curtains. Still ringing the door bell every few minutes apparently trying to get us to go to the door so they can film us.

Update 00:21

Uni security still ringing the doorbell constantly and laughing... It's like they've just discovered this hilariously original prank.

Update: 00:36

University security attempting to force entry again. Have forced a window open (damaging the window frame in the process) and trying to get through the window.

Update 00:58

Stand-off between university and students. Police officer on the scene has refused to stop the attempts to break into the building as he says we are 'illegal occupiers' and refused to give his ID number when asked.

Update 01:15

Sorry for the lack of updates, very difficult situation at the moment. Security are continuing to surround the building banging on doors and windows however seem to have given up trying to break through the window for now after we re-secured it. A large group of supporters has gathered outside the building now which seems to have put security off continuing to attack us. We thank them all very much for their support.

Update 01:21: We have now discovered that the 'police officer' we talked to earlier was actually university private security impersonating a police officer and the police were never actually there.

Update 01:36:

We believe the university private security man who took part in the first assault (punching an occupier three times in the face through an open window while trying to force his way through) has been taken by the police for questioning. We seem to be in something of a ceasefire now that there are too many people outside the

Follow

occupation with cameras for the security to continue their completely illegal attacks. Crowd outside are singing for us, the solidarity is wonderful 😊

Update 02:08

Due to security backing off to deal with the new protest outside we managed to fix the damaged window and have now re-locked it. People power works.

Update 11.18

Student supporters of occupation to discuss what next for the occupation?

They are meeting at 5pm today at the Muirhead Tower.

"Right everyone, so a few of us decided that we should perhaps all get together for a little bit and discuss what to do next, in terms of solidarity and creating a more visual and dynamic presence, what other things can we do outside the occupation other than just voice our solidarity with the occupiers inside?

Some people have cooked up a few ideas already, but if you have your own then make sure you can come to this today! It'll only be half an hour."

Update 11.36

We have just received this solidarity message from Birmingham against the cuts, which alliance of grassroots campaign groups and trade unions from all across Birmingham.

Update 11.53

We have received this statement of support from the national campaign against fees and cuts <http://anticuts.com/2011/11/24/statement-on-university-of-birmingham-occupation/>

Update 13.03

BBC West Midlands have arrived with camera crews outside the occupation.

Update 16.08

The university are trying to get a High Court hearing late notice in two hours time to get an interim possession order against us to force us out of the premises.

Update 18.03

we have received this letter of solidarity from university of birmingham students

To the occupiers,

We are sorry to see the way the university has reacted to your peaceful occupation; we are ashamed of our university's actions. On a day when over 10 universities all across the country went into occupation it was only the University of Birmingham that decided it would crack down on peaceful protest. The attack on the occupation last night and the blockade that they have enforced on you is entirely disproportionate. Especially considering that your occupation, even according to the university, has not been disruptive.

Follow

We believe, like you, that people should be treated as human beings and the university should be run for the public good, not as a business. The cuts to pay and pensions of support staff already on poverty pay is morally abhorrent, especially while high paid university managers take pay rises of as much as 11%. We stand with you in your opposition to the cuts to staff pensions, which are the main cause of the strike on November 30th; we also want to offer solidarity to staff unions. We like you, think it is important we support the strike on November 30th because if we want to retain the brightest and best academics in the UK as our teachers, then we must give our lecturers fair pensions. We would like to point to the university that the Guild of Students itself fully supports the strike on November 30th, this is clearly not the belief of a minority.

The university seeks to portray you as a minority opinion on campus. This is not true: we are elected representatives from all across campus and we support you wholeheartedly. We would be in occupation with you if it were not for the blockade the university has put on the occupation and for fear of the threat of disciplinary actions that university is using to smother dissent.

Stay strong if the university take action against you, we will be there to defend you.

Solidarity

Edward Bauer VP Education

Kelly Rodgers Womens officer Guild of students

Leander Jones Community action officer Guild of students

Ben Aylott Chair Postgraduate and Mature Students Association, University Senator

Susanne Kluber Chair International students Association, Guild Councillor

Daniel Harrison, Chair, Birmingham Labour Students, Guild Councillor

Mma yeebo-Agoe – Ethnic Minorities Guild Councilor

Alice Swift 2nd year Chair of People & Planet, Campaigning & Political Mini-Forum Guild Councillor and Ethical & Environmental Committee member.

Sean Farmelo – Philosophy, Theology and Religion Guild Councilor and Ethical and Environmental Committee member.

Simon Furse Open Place Guild Councillor

Bryn Gough Political Science Guild Councillor

Nazakit Mohammed- Civ Eng Guild Councillor

Carmern Castrillon – Languages Guild Councillor

Yusri Hamidi- Computer Eng Guild Councillor

Anwar Sattar- Post Grad Guild Councillor

Usamah Khalid- Open Place

Follow

Zain Ali- Open Place

Muneeb Akhtar- Chem Eng Guild Councillor

Sam weaver, biosciences and student representation 1st year

Sivan Lavie Oxfam Co-chair

Rosie Pinsent Chair of Art Soc

Sebastian Egerton-Read Secretary Student Broad Left

laura hamilton, 2nd year geology student rep & lapsoc VP

Amanda Moorghen, 2nd Year Philosophy SH Student Rep

Alex Thompson, 1st year hispanic studies

update 18.33

we have received this message of solidarity from occupy Birmingham, who are camped in the centre of town.

"We, the occupiers of Birmingham, are disturbed to see the way the university has reacted to your peaceful occupation. The University of Birmingham has, alone, reacted with aggression and has sought to harass those of it's students that have offered their solidarity to trades unionists and occupiers.

We believe, like you, that the University is an academic community of staff and students. Central to this concept is the ability of all its members freely to challenge prevailing orthodoxies, query the positions and views of others and to put forward ideas that may sometimes be radical in their formulation. We support the students, academic and other staff members that are proud to defend the right for education to be available to all, that seek to defend UK education from the cuts to its teaching and research base, to defend the terms and conditions of its staff. To these ends we support the peaceful actions of the occupiers and offer solidarity with the members of staff unions actions in withdrawing their labour on November 30th. Regards,

Occupy Birmingham"

update 18:40

occupation being covered on the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-15861769>

update 18:42

We have been informed that the university are seeking a interim procession order, we are told that if this is granted it will be a criminal offence to stay beyond 24hours after it has been granted.

Share this:

Twitter

Facebook

51 Responses to *In Occupation, this post is updated live.*

Liam

November 23, 2011 at 1:17 am



Solidarity from Glasgow Uni! Squatting abandoned uni buildings is the way forward!

Reply

Birmingham Student

November 23, 2011 at 1:22 am



Really impressed you managed to pull this off, I thought with the truly awful way that the University of Birmingham treats its students nothing would be possible.

Reply

Pippa

November 24, 2011 at 10:19 am



Are you getting food at your occupation yet?

Reply

Bham Student

November 23, 2011 at 1:50 am



Amazing! Hopefully the violent and thuggish security guards and their puppet masters (the management) will have a harder time getting you out!

Reply

CRUZERISM

November 23, 2011 at 2:25 am



Solidarity from Warwick! Keep up the great work.

Reply

TRAP

November 23, 2011 at 2:28 am



<https://www.facebook.com/TRAPTheRealArtofProtest>

Solidarity – we have posted your link to our 30,000 subscribers on our facebook page. Hope other uni's across the country follow your lead.

Reply

Follow

Mark Walsh

November 23, 2011 at 3:16 am



The Right Wing survives by keeping people stupid. You are doing the best thing to demand the best education that can be had for the least money. You will be of value to the world. Solidarity

Reply

Anonyme

November 23, 2011 at 4:55 am



Solidarity from all at Cambridge Defend Education!

Reply

Sabiha Mahmoud

November 23, 2011 at 8:57 am



Awesome! Sending you solidarity and if you are all there by Thursday I'm paying a visit, take care of my friend who is helping occupy 😊

Reply

Birmingham Alumni

November 23, 2011 at 9:41 am



Amazing – the first over-night occupation in Birmingham!! Evicting you now would look ridiculous on the University after even the police called it disproportionate – finally a free space for students on campus, well done and solidarity!!

Reply

bilus

November 23, 2011 at 10:00 am



I lived there for a month this summer – it was okay but the take-away delivery takes time, as nobody can find the place!

Good luck guys 😊

Reply

Pingback: Englische Studenten besetzen die Universitäten als Protest gegen Studiengebühren von 9000 Pfund – als Auftakt zum landesweiten Streiktag in Großbritannien in der nächsten Woche: Organisiert der DGB/Verdi und deutsche Studenten gewerkschaftliche S

Follow

Simon Thorpe

November 23, 2011 at 12:59 pm



Solidarity!!!

Reply

Pingback: Englische Studenten besetzen die Universitäten als Protest gegen Studiengebühren von 9000 Pfund – als Auftakt zum landesweiten Streiktag in Großbritannien in der nächsten Woche: Organisiert der DGB/Verdi und deutsche Studenten gewerkschaftliche

Chaz Lockett

November 23, 2011 at 2:14 pm



Solidarity from Socialist Students Society at University of Sheffield! Your linking of struggle with lecturers, support staff and other student groups provides an example to all occupations. Though we ourselves were not able to occupy today, we have much action planned for the coming weeks – expect Sheffield to be lit as a beacon against the attacks of the 1%!

Chaz Lockett (secretary, Socialist Students Society, University of Sheffield)

Reply

Orkhe Navenadnik

November 23, 2011 at 2:43 pm



solidarity from Warwick, we successfully managed to occupy this afternoon

Reply

Wolf Pack

November 23, 2011 at 2:51 pm



Well done. The Tories are doing no better than the communist swine before them, it is time for the people of the country to take control of our destinies. Hail Victory.

Reply

Keith

November 23, 2011 at 3:12 pm



Solidarity from Glasgow Caledonian University.
Good luck for your campaign!

Reply

Follow

UoE



November 23, 2011 at 3:54 pm



Solidarity from a Midlands lad at the University of Essex.
And remember, support your local Nightline when you can!

Reply

khrushchyov

November 23, 2011 at 4:13 pm



Solidarity! Extremely impressive work, show that greasy bastard Eastwood where the power really lies!

Reply

Robert Mcnicol (@Splitpediment)

November 23, 2011 at 4:52 pm



You guys are fantastic! I used to stroll past that building every day on my way to lectures, and if I were still there I'd be there. If you see what I mean. Anywho, keep up the good work, keep the pressure on these people who would have us believe that education can be sold to the highest bidder, and keep occupying.

Reply

Nick

November 23, 2011 at 5:38 pm



Nice one guys! Hope this one keeps going. Sorry I couldn't help out: I'm busy getting myself organised for my first day of work tomorrow, plus I don't really fancy being strangled by a security guard again.
Good luck and keep up the great work!

Reply

Pingback: LIVE BLOG of the November 23rd Day of Action — National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts

Tom Gorman

November 23, 2011 at 6:34 pm



Good work all! Solidarity from Coventry University.

Reply

Northie

November 23, 2011 at 7:50 pm



Good luck with your struggle! From a former B'ham post-grad and current NUT member (on strike tuesday!!!)

Follow

Reply

Mo

November 23, 2011 at 9:02 pm



Great that you also refer to the global perspective of the struggle and endorse the international joint statement.

Please also communicate this to activists worldwide by send a mail to the global mailing list of the International Student Movement platform: international_students_movement@lists.riseup.net

★ one world – one struggle ★
in solidarity from marburg ~

Reply

hollium

November 23, 2011 at 9:51 pm



Wow, if this is the way the UoB treats its student body I won't be going there next year to study Social Policy...

Reply

Jeremy Green

November 23, 2011 at 9:52 pm



Solidarity from York University in Toronto, you inspire me!

Reply

Makhnovist

November 23, 2011 at 10:47 pm



Solidarity from London Anarchists

Reply

Pingback: [Birmingham University OCCUPIED! « Protest-Net](#)

Anzir Boodoo

November 23, 2011 at 11:53 pm



greetings from an alumnus (BSc Geography, 1999), with best wishes and solidarity from Occupy Leeds and The Really Open University, which arose out of the Leeds Uni occupation last year.

Reply

sean

November 24, 2011 at 12:23 am

Follow

Thank you for doing this people. It really is being noticed across the country and by our senior management. The assault of a UoB student will not go unnoticed.

Reply

Pingback: Students begin wave of occupations to back public sector strikes | News World Digest

Anonymous

November 24, 2011 at 12:59 am



Get some sleep! Can't you disconnect the bell?

Reply

Pingback: Students begin wave of occupations to back public sector strikes | News Flash

darren jorgensen

November 24, 2011 at 5:00 am



Solidarity from Australia. You protest the cuts and increasing fees in your own country, but are protesting a much larger shift to the right where university education is concerned. We have learned here that when they pull off changes in the UK, they happen soon after in Australia, so are watching your situation very closely. Keep up the fantastic work on our behalf, we are with you here on the other side of the world
Darren Jorgensen, art history lecturer, University of West Australia

Reply

Gill

November 24, 2011 at 9:30 am



As a former lecturer of that damned place, I'm in full support of your actions. The managers there are nothing short of louts and bullies: look at the way they treat their staff, let alone their students.

Reply

Scott Cowley

November 24, 2011 at 9:58 am



I wish you the best you wonderful Birmingham people, stay safe, Fight the power, stand for your rights.
COVENTRY UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS YOU!!!!
viva la revolution!!!!

Reply

Anonymous

Follow



November 24, 2011 at 12:19 pm



Fight the fight. Sincerely hoping that security are told to knob off and we can come and see you / make use of the space too.

Love and rage.

Reply

Emily Grabham

November 24, 2011 at 12:22 pm



Good luck to the Birmingham occupation!

Reply

Alice

November 24, 2011 at 12:35 pm



Solidarity! Well done everyone, you are doing a marvellous thing. Can you turn the doorbell off somehow if security are still being so pathetic? And if they were impersonating a police officer, this can be illegal. Staff and students are all sick of the University and its shameful bullying – well done for standing up to them! The University should be ashamed of what it has become, ashamed!

Reply

Frankfurt kid

November 24, 2011 at 3:07 pm



Keep it up! Your voices must be heard.

Love and solidarity from Germany

Reply

Pingback: Students begin wave of occupations to back public sector strikes | Demand a referendum on the EU-IMF deal

Bird

November 24, 2011 at 4:11 pm



Keep going guys!

Reply

anish

November 24, 2011 at 4:22 pm

Follow



Inspiring!

Love, Peace and Justice,

Anish

Reply

JimMD

November 24, 2011 at 4:36 pm

Solidarity from Loughborough Uni, Good work! Let's see if the idea will catch on elsewhere, eh?

Reply

Nick

November 24, 2011 at 4:41 pm

Reddit has picked up on the occupation:

http://www.reddit.com/r/ukpolitics/comments/mnz5t/university_of_birmingham_occupation_live_updates/

Reply

Nick

November 24, 2011 at 4:42 pm

(Remember to take any negative comments with a pinch of salt: Reddit can have a hell of a lot of trolls and generally ignorant people sometimes)

Reply

rupert

November 24, 2011 at 6:20 pm

solidarity from moscow! i'm following this with excitement, and i hope many good things come from your collective bold and brave act of occupation. i'm also very encouraged by the positive attitude of the guild and mark harrop, makes a change! the vindictive, violent and unprofessional behaviour by uni security stands in stark contrast, but i expected no less. impersonating a police officer is very illegal, no? keep up the great work anyway, you're an inspiration to us all!

Reply

George

November 24, 2011 at 6:33 pm

You've made it onto the BBC website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-15861769>

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Reply

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BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 24, 2011

University of Birmingham Students Occupy Gatehouse



Shortly after midnight yesterday (23rd November), around 40 students occupied a building at the University of Birmingham, in protest over the Higher Education white paper, and in support of the 30th November strikes next week.

This was part of a national day of action that also saw occupations begin at Warwick University, Royal Holloway, York, Edinburgh and Goldsmiths. Students and Education workers opened up a social centre in Bloomsbury, near the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS).

Students at Cambridge University disrupted a meeting at which David Willetts, the Higher Education minister, was due to speak. He did not deliver his speech. The students then occupied a lecture theatre at the University.

At Birmingham, students occupied the former gatehouse at the North gate, which is not in use, and they are claiming squatters rights. The University has responded by placing a heavy security presence on the building and preventing anyone from entering. Following negotiations between the Guild of Students and the University, the occupiers have been able to receive food, but only if it is delivered by an officer of the Guild.

Under squatters rights, the building (if entered freely (ie: without breaking and entering) and secured) is considered their home, and the blockade of the building by the University is potentially illegal, and a similar situation to if your landlord decided to place security outside your house and stop your friends from visiting you.

Despite this, the situation has largely remained calm, aside from an incident last night where it is alleged that security tried to drag someone out of a window and punched one of the other occupiers.

The University have said that they will get an injunction if the occupiers have not left by 9am this morning. At the time of writing, they are still in the building and are not intending to leave. No legal documents have been received by the occupation as of yet.

Follow



The occupation has issued a set of demands to the University, based around the idea of keeping education as a public good, not turning into a private, profit making enterprise. Their demands include no course cuts, and no cuts to jobs, wages or conditions for staff, as well as a public rejection of the white paper and a commitment to keeping the University public. [You can read the full set of demands here.](#)

The higher education white paper will increase marketisation in Universities, paving the way for wide-scale privatisation, in a similar way to how we have seen the NHS change over the past 15 years. The changes in the white paper will hit universities with a higher proportion of working class students the hardest, as funding gets withdrawn, whilst elite universities get only small cuts. Birmingham City University, with 44% of students from working class backgrounds, is facing the 9th largest funding cuts, whilst places like UCL and Oxford are losing very small sums of money.

More detail about the white paper can be found in this post – especially in the video at the bottom of it.



As well as the issue of the potential privatisation of the higher education system, this occupation is intended to build for the 30th November strikes, to show solidarity with lecturers and support staff who will be out to defend their pensions, and to mobilise students to attend pickets and the teach out.

Birmingham Against the Cuts stands in solidarity with the occupation, which is seeking to defend the attacks on our education system that will disproportionately affect average earners, and reduce social mobility. The white paper is the latest in a series of attacks, including the scrapping of EMA, the raising of tuitions fees, the invention of free schools and the increase in academies, which are stripping the public education system and opening it up to private companies directly in the case of free schools, or through the backdoor in the case of the HE white paper. Academies meanwhile reduce the collectivism of the education system by creating individual schools. It will of course be much easier to introduce a marketised system, or hand over schools to private companies, if they are individual units rather than a collectivised system. We have recently seen Circle Health take over an NHS hospital. This will be repeated with private education providers taking over "failing" schools.

We call on the university to open access to the occupation whilst legal proceedings are ongoing. We believe that this is not just the legally correct route to take, but also the morally correct decision, as the occupation has been peaceful, and is not causing disruption to students or staff, since the building is not in use.

We ask security to stand with the students, and tell the university that they do not feel that they should be preventing access to the building, and that this is not a security issue. We hope to see solidarity between all staff members and students, as the students seek to take action to defend the education system. As always it is the management at the university who make the cuts, but never on their own pay packet. Support staff at the

Follow

university have accepted real-terms pay cuts this year, but the vice-chancellor saw a 10% pay increase, to £392,000/year (plus a house, car and other benefits).

We thank the guild for showing support to the occupation and ensuring that their human rights are met by the University. This shows a marked difference from previous administrations at the guild and hope that it indicates a change in direction that will see the guild seek to resist changes to the education system at the University, rather than simply seek to maintain a seat at the table.

Please send the students messages of support and solidarity to occupyuob@gmail.com

You can keep up to date with events by following them on their [website](#), [facebook](#) or [twitter](#).

BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 21, 2011

Open Letter about Council Consultation sham

Dear Sir/Madam

Can I severely object to [the report on the Sutton Coldfield budget consultation meeting](#) posted on the City Council website. The points made by several people at the meeting that the consultation was a fraud and the meeting would be recorded to avoid any serious criticism of the Council. These points have been confirmed by the report made of the meeting. I print below the report given on the website. The report is wrong on almost all respects. Two resolutions were put (listed below NOT "A resolution"). Since the officials had copies of resolutions WHY weren't resolutions listed on the website as part of the report? The report on voting on the resolutions is also inaccurate. Surely a school student could make a better effort in reporting the meeting!!

The first resolution was taken in parts the first part was passed with nearly all participants in the meeting voting with 3 against. The second part of the resolution was passed again with most of the meeting voting with 5 against.

Mostly obviously the second resolution is covered up in the report given it called for pay cuts for the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive Sephen Hughes who is on an obscene salary of £235,000 a year. Again WHY was the second resolution not published given it was passed unanimously? Were the Council officials worried that the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council would angry with them?

Report on the website:

A resolution was put against the cuts and in favour of reinstating cuts/staff salaries. Less than half of the meeting indicated, by a show of hands, that they were in favour.

Resolutions passed at the meeting.

Resolutions to the budget consultation meeting 3.11.11.

Resolution 1

This meeting opposes all the cuts Birmingham City Council is proposing in the 2012/13 Budget. It further calls for the reinstatement of all the cuts in the 2011/12 budget in particular reversing the massive pay cuts (up to £5,000 a year) being imposed on many City Council workers.

Resolution 2

Follow

The official rhetoric on the cuts is that we are all in this together. In line with this establishment line it is agreed to support the following.

The percentage cut in the 2012/13 budget agreed by the Birmingham City Council will be the same percentage cut in Councillors allowances and pay of the Chief Executive and directors of the Council's departments.

For example if the Council agrees a 10% cut in services for Birmingham people, the allowance of the Council leader and the pay of the Chief Executive will be cut by 10%.

I am also sending this complaint to the Birmingham Mail since they might not be so keen to COVER UP the details of this consultation meeting that you seemed to be committed to.

Stuart Richardson

BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 20, 2011

Scathing Attack on Library Cuts from Former Head of Libraries

John Dolan, the former head of Birmingham Libraries, attacked the council's library cuts programme in an open letter published in the Birmingham Post.

The Birmingham Post sets out [cuts planned for Birmingham Libraries](#). This comes out one day before the last Council public consultation meeting on its budget plans. There was no mention of libraries in list of cuts up for public consultation. In all [the public papers](#) the words 'library' or 'libraries' are not used anywhere.

This is actually about dismantling the service through the back door while pretending to fix the front door. Birmingham has already dismissed most of the senior and middle management.

You should read the whole letter – it was also [published on Voices for the Library](#)

It comprises a comprehensive analysis of the way in which Birmingham City Council is seeking to dismantle an important service for the community. Handsworth Library will not open on Fridays, and many other libraries are also restricting their opening hours – We have been told the Central Library will now close at 6pm each day, making it difficult for anyone who works to use the service.

Aside from lending books, audio books and often music and films, libraries also offer internet access, often in communities that have low access rates. For someone who is unemployed, having access to the internet is vital to help find work or training opportunities.

[Handsworth Against the Cuts](#) is already campaigning about library cuts in that area, so if you want to be involved with that, get in touch with them. If your local library is facing cuts and you want to fight that and the library cuts in general, let us know, or come to our [next open planning meeting on Monday 12th December](#). (let us know you are coming so it gets on the agenda).

BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 18, 2011

Follow

All Out on 30th November!



Yesterday, UNITE and NAPO (probation officers) declared they had won the vote to strike, and today the last teaching union balloting, NASUWT also declared their result – 82% on a 44% turnout – a clear indication from members that they want to take industrial action over changes to their pension schemes that will see people working longer, paying more and getting less, in order to reduce a deficit created by the bankers.

With NASUWT declared, all the major unions will be on strike, with over 3,000,000 public sector workers out on 30th November, this will be the largest strike since the general strike, and will see large parts of government shut down for the day.

This result also pretty much guarantees that every school will be closed on the day, as all the main unions, including the head teachers union NAHT have voted to strike. Parents should be told by their schools shortly whether the school will be open.

To see all the results click on this image:



There are many things happening on the day – if you know your workplace will have a picket, please let us know by commenting on this post or emailing us at BirminghamAgainstTheCuts@Gmail.com so we can list it. If you are on a picket, please take a photo and send it to us at the same email address, it would be great to comprehensively document this strike.

Following picket lines, there are local rallies planned in Cotteridge, Selly Oak/Edgbaston, Handsworth and East Birmingham.

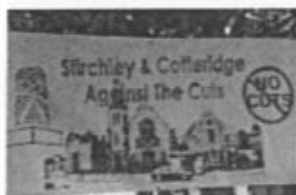
The TUC are planning a March, but details are not finalised. Assembly will likely be from sometime around 11am or 12noon at Lionel Street Car Park, with a march through the city centre to an indoor rally at the NIA.

The doors of the NIA will be open from 12:30, and the rally is expected to start at 1:30.

Full details are available on our Pickets, Rallies and Demonstrations page:



Stirchley and Cotteridge Against the Cuts Nov/Dec activities



Activities agreed at last night's planning meeting. Please help out where you can.

Charles House;

Mon 21st Nov; 7pm – Lobby of Cllr Les Lawrence. Ward Committee, Hamstead House

Sat 26th Nov; 10-2pm Cotteridge Church Centre Xmas Fair (check time we turn up)

Sat 10th Dec; 11 – 1 – Street stall at Kings Norton Green

Thur 19th Jan; 7pm – Kings Norton Ward Committee, St.Pauls JI School, Pool Farm

Also, please [fill in the petitions which you can find at the end of this post](#)

Birmingham against the cuts Public Meeting 24th Nov at the Council House 7pm

Sat 19th Nov; 12-2pm – Leafleting in town centre, outside Waterstones, near the Bull, alongside TUC day of action.

Mon 21st Nov; 2.45pm – leafleting Cotteridge JI school parents

4.30pm – leafleting at Kings Norton Station – car park entrance

Tue 22nd Nov; 2.45pm – leafleting Bournville JI school

4.30pm – leafleting Bournville Station

Wed Nov 30th; most of the day! Huge public sector strikes over pension attacks

7am – probable picket at Lifford House, maybe picket at Lifford Refuse depot even earlier, probable pickets at Connexions – Northfield and other places.

9am – protest at Cotteridge Church Centre. Be there with our banner!

10am – Trade Union rally outside University main gates, opposite Fire Station.

11am – Demo assembly Lionel St, town Centre

1.30pm – Rally at the NIA

(Sat 26th Nov; Waterstones, further Trade Union leafleting 12-2pm)

Lifford House lobbying

Fri 18th Nov; 5pm – lobby of Councillor Dawkins. Woodlands Park Rd.

Monday 5th Dec; 7pm – lobby of Cllr Dow, Selly Park Tech College for Girls. Follow

Stirchley and Cotteridge against the Cuts next meetings

Wed 23rd Nov; 7.30pm – Special meeting of SACAC. One item on agenda – Nov 30th! Cotteridge Church Centre.

Thur 1st Dec; 7.30pm, Stirchley Community Centre, Elm room. There will be a proposal put to the meeting; "This group agrees to have joint campaign/candidate with the Green Party, on a no-cuts basis, in the May 2012 local elections. This is to be in the Bournville, and possibly Kings Norton and Northfield, wards"

Stirchley and Cotteridge against the Cuts Social!

Thur 15th or Fri 16th Dec; at the British Oak, Stirchley, with Naomi Paul (Comedienne) and "No More Numbers" (GreenDay) band – to be confirmed. Any more talent amongst our supporters?

(We need to raise £££ to pay for printing and other expenses)

Cotteridge Church Elderly Day Centre

No news is good news? Some money seems to be coming in for the next few months

Academy News

KNHS voted to go with ARK. Maybe delay till next September. Debts paid off by BCC before conversion? No news of Hawkesley JI. West Heath JI?

BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Isle of White Cuts Ruled Unlawful due to Lack of Consultation

An attempt by the Isle of Wight to follow Birmingham's lead in stripping disabled people of entitlement to social care has failed in the High Court. The Isle of Wight wanted to cut care and support for people assessed as having substantial care needs. In May this year Birmingham City Council's attempt to withdraw support from thousands of people who had substantial care needs was ruled unlawful.

Birmingham City Council claims that they are currently consulting on next year's budget which would involve further cuts of £62 million on top of the cuts already imposed in February this year. Birmingham Against the Cuts has been warning at meetings across the city that the council's consultation is a sham and the Isle of Wight case should make sobering reading for the councillors and senior officers running Birmingham.

The Isle of Wight's Tory Council plan clearly shows what lies in store for vulnerable people across the country. The intention was to restrict care to those who had critical needs and only support substantial needs where it would enable someone to "remain in their own home" or "remain safe". What would not be supported would be "involvement in work, education and learning, social support systems and relationships and other social roles and responsibilities."

Across the country vulnerable people face the prospect of being left with the most basic level of support. Keeping someone in their own home without any access to work, education or social activity will create prisoners in their own home. Birmingham Against the Cuts believes that all people are entitled to a decent, fulfilling life – not just an existence.

Follow

The High Court rejected the Isle of Wight's attempt to 'downgrade' certain needs to being less important than being housed and kept safe. Government guidance issued in February 2010 was upheld requiring the Council to treat all such needs as being important. However local and national government will keep trying to find ways of reducing the support and reducing the life chances of those in need.

In Birmingham it is reported that plans are being made by the Tory/Lib Dem Council to close Shelforce, a longstanding manufacturer of PVC doors and windows employing people with a range of disabilities. The Council admits that the workforce of about 90, who make 25,000 doors and windows every year, face the greatest possible barriers to mainstream employment. Closing Shelforce will deny the staff the opportunity of employment and social engagement.

In the Isle of Wight case the Council was criticised at some length by the Court for failing to properly consult on the impact their cuts would have on disabled people. In particular the Court said there was not enough information for the public to make an intelligent judgment of the cuts. There was a failure to provide information about how many people would be affected and how much money would be saved. There was no evidence based information in the consultation and no detail of how people who lost their care and support would be affected.

This is likely to sound familiar to anyone who has been a participant in a consultation organised by Birmingham City Council. Sadly we cannot assume that the High Court will be there to throw out every half-baked and half-hearted consultation. Sham consultations waste money – the money wasted on a meaningless consultation which is more about hiding the truth than being honest. In addition if the Council lose in Court yet more money is thrown away in legal fees. We call upon Birmingham City Council to start telling the public the truth about its cuts agenda and listen to the majority of people who oppose their cuts.

Bryan Nott

BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 16, 2011

Defend Education – day of action in Birmingham, Nov 23rd

There is a gap that is emerging between universities like Birmingham City University and elite institutions like the University of Birmingham because of targeted government cuts. These targeted cuts are a recipe for a deeply unequal society. A society where the elite who could afford to go private schools get the best that money can buy at universities that most can't get into.

This is not just about cuts but about the way the white paper targets cuts and gives new powers to private companies which will essentially lead to two tier system of education in the UK.

Birmingham City University is on the receiving end of the 9th highest cuts in government funding in the country. The massive cuts are 8 times higher than the cuts at elite institutions like University College London which is receiving minor cuts of only -0.8%, while for universities like the University of Oxford and Imperial University, government funding is actually being increased.

It is institutions that are the most accessible to those from low socioeconomic backgrounds that are being hit hardest. The universities being given the most cuts have high proportions of students from low socioeconomic groups studying in them. At BCU 44.7% of students come from low socioeconomic groups, while at the University of Oxford 11.4% of students come from low socioeconomic groups. Yet while money is ploughed into Oxford it is taken out of BCU.

Follow

This is not about funding excellence; courses that BCU offer which are the best in country are being cut just the same. School of Media, rated fifth in the UK, is having its budget cut drastically and 30% of staff face redundancy this year. However despite the excellence it is being driven under by a government set on creating a marketized two tier education system.

Non-elite institutions like Birmingham City University are being set to fail by the government, so they can be sold off, bought out by private firms to run for profit, in much the same fashion that the NHS has been sold off under Labour and now the Conservatives.

There are sit ins and occupations taking place in most Universities in Birmingham and in nearby Coventry on [23rd November](#). Students will be coming out to [support the strikes on the 30th](#). If you would like to get in touch with students to ask them how you can help them on the 23rd call or text 07988056867. On the day student occupiers may need support to protect them from campus authorities or simply messages of support, whatever you can offer is appreciated.

The 23rd is a national day of action, and there will be actions taken on many campuses around the UK. [See the NCAFC website for more details on events around the UK](#)

For more detail on the White paper, watch this short speech by Simon Furse, a student at the University of Birmingham:



BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 14, 2011

4 More Unions Vote YES to Strike on 30th November

4 more unions announced positive ballot results for strike action over pensions today – [FDA and Prospect](#), who both represent civil servants, [The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists](#) and the [Society of Radiographers](#).

FDA represent senior civil servants, and they voted 81% in favour on a 54% turnout – a huge mandate, and another one that, like the NAHT vote last week, shows how much anger there is at the governments plans to make people work longer, pay more and get less.

Prospect members voted 75% in favour on a 52% turnout. This means that all ~~F0L0W~~ service unions will be on strike on 30th November, as PCS still have a live ballot that saw them strike on the 30th June.

Meanwhile, the Society of Radiographers got a stomping result with 83% of members voting in favour of action on a 58% turnout.

The most resounding result of the day though goes to the Physiotherpaists, with 86% voting yes on a huge 66% turnout.

30th November is shaping up to be a huge day, and you can keep up date with things in Birmingham on our [special 30th November pages](#), including the arguments for the strike, the ballot results and events & pickets happening on the day.

We need your help with this – please let us know if your workplace will have a picket.

BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Report from Kings Heath council consultation budget meeting

Birmingham City Council held a consultation meeting last night in Kings Heath, which was attended by many members of the public, who expressed opposition to the council cuts. Two of our supporters were in attendance and have said this about the meeting:

Dave Stamp:

Just a brief report from a very angry Budget Consultation meeting in Kings Heath, where a packed community centre overwhelmingly passed resolutions opposing all cuts to services , and calling for cuts to executives' pay equivalent to the "savings" rates proposed in the document.

Astonishingly, the entirely partial presenting officer (Burrows?) took a transparently partisan Tory stance on deficit reduction, and insultingly responded to the call for executives' pay to be cut by observing that the Council's work was so important, and so beyond the comprehension of mere mortals that it's essential to pay the highest rates possible to ensure that the most special and wise individuals imaginable will apply for vacancies.

I'm still left with the mental image of the pigs gorging themselves on apples and milk while the rest of the creatures on Orwell's farm starve.

Aidan Harris:

Along with demands to know the audience's political affiliations, misinformation about cuts to children's centres and a disingenuous statement about not raising eligibility criteria for adult social services (not acknowledging that they had been forced to backtrack by a judicial review). A complete whitewash.

Council budget meetings continue, make sure you attend one near you and get resolutions passed against the cuts. You can look at reports from [Sutton Coldfield](#) and [Longbridge](#) meetings, or the [Kings Heath meeting callout](#) for examples of resolutions.

[A list of meetings is in this post.](#)

BY BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE CUTS | NOVEMBER 9, 2011

Follow

30th November Strike Ballot results rolling in



Over the past few days, more unions have announced a yes vote for strike against changes to pension schemes that will see public sector workers paying more and working longer to get less.

Today, the NAHT, which represents head teachers, announced their ballot result, with 76% voting yes on a 54% turnout. This will be the first strike in the 114 year history of the union, showing how serious the impact of pension changes will be. With NAHT representing heads in many primary and secondary schools, this ballot result ensures that there will be widespread school closures. We would encourage pupils to join teachers on picket lines or at rallies and demonstrations around the country, in order to help link up education struggles against school budget cuts, privatisation, the scrapping of EMA and the attacks on pensions.

Earlier this week, NISPSA (Northern Ireland public servants union) and EIS (Scottish Teachers Union) also announced positive ballot results.

Further results are to be announced over the next two weeks – if you have recieved a ballot paper, we urge you to vote yes and return it as soon as possible.

We are gathering together as much information as possible on our [30th November Strike pages](#), including a page which lists ballots and results.

We need your help with these pages – please let us know if your workplace will have a picket, tell us why you are striking, or why you support the strikes if you are not a public sector worker.

On 30th November, join the biggest strike since the general strike of 1926, and contribute towards the struggle against austerity.

Follow

1. Claimant
2. Mr G. S. Richards
3. First
4. GSR1
5. 24.11.11

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY**

CLAIM NO IBM 30637

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Claimant

-and-

**PERSONS UNKNOWN (INCLUDING STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM) ENTERING OR REMAINING UPON THE BUILDINGS KNOWN AS
No. 2 LODGE PRITCHATTS ROAD, BIRMINGHAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTEST ACTION (WITHOUT THE
CONSENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)**

Defendants

EXHIBIT "GSR3"

This is the exhibit "GSR3" to the First Witness Statement of Gordon Stuart Richards dated 24 November 2011.

Our Ref: CMP/LV

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Legal Services

Director
Mrs C M E Pike LLB
Solicitor

23 November 2011


To the Occupiers of
No 2 Lodge
Pritchatts Road
Edgbaston
B15 2SB

Further to the earlier letter today, I write to re-iterate that the University has withdrawn permission for you to occupy the premises known as No 2 Lodge Pritchatts Road ("the Property") and therefore you are trespassers. You must leave immediately.

As students of the University you are subject to Regulations 8 relating to Student Conduct and in particular 8.2.1.(g) misuse or unauthorised use of University premises. I should point out that possible sanctions for breach of Student Conduct Regulations range from a reprimand to a requirement that the student withdraw from the University. Students who fail to attend their studies tomorrow morning at 9 am may also face sanctions under Regulation 7.8 Reasonable Diligence. However if students leave the Property before 9am this fact will be taken into account as part of any Conduct proceedings.

The University is a charity and as such it is required to protect and preserve its assets, including land and buildings. Tomorrow morning at 9 am the University anticipates commencing legal proceedings to recover possession of the Property. As part of those proceedings it will make an application for recovery of costs against those who have required the University to incur the costs. These costs may be substantial.

Yours faithfully



Mrs C. M. E Pike
Solicitor
Director, Legal Services