

Item for Senate Discussion

Innovation Refurbishment and Decant Arrangements – implications for teaching and research

We have concerns about the plans to refurbish Innovation in the upcoming year and the consequent moves required by colleagues in Law, SASS and IT, and additional use made of existing SHS space.

These concerns relate to specific impacts on quality and standards, including:

- Limited scope for personal tutoring in academic Law Programmes (UG, PGT, PhD) – what is the ratio of staff to private-room availability and how do you think this will impact the speed and quality of personal tutor meetings? This may affect NSS scores and progression.
- Undermining the physical and social community of our research students in the run up to REF, may damage for our Research Environment;
- Anger and frustration among our PhD students, who have now started a petition: <https://platform.organise.org.uk/campaigns/decant-of-the-pool> may have negative publicity effects and harm recruitment;
- Staff are being moved into unsuitable and open plan spaces, with inadequate storage/shelves may harm our ability to retain excellent staff and will make it more difficult for staff, especially those without alternative work-spaces, to develop cutting-edge research;
- Inferior library and study spaces for UG and PGT in law may impact student satisfaction for two years (2020 and 2021), which are critical in the development of subject-level TEF;
- There has not been a health and safety risk assessment, nor consideration of work-related stress and mental health – for students or staff.

We are also concerned that the staff involved in this have not been consulted, that there does not appear to be a plan in place to manage the above and other risks to quality and standards.

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