

The Hetherington Inquiry

Terms of Reference

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 22 March 2011 attempts by the University to end a seven week occupation of Hetherington House led to considerable public disorder and disturbance on the University of Glasgow campus. A considerable police presence was deployed on campus and protestors were removed amid unruly scenes. Protesters subsequently occupied part of the University's main administrative building. The protestors agreed to leave on being allowed to reoccupy Hetherington House. Concerns have been raised that the actions taken by University staff and by Strathclyde Police were excessive, unnecessary and/ or inappropriate.
- 1.2 The Principal of the University, Professor Anton Muscatelli, has established an independent inquiry into:
 - 1.2.1 the University's response to and management of the occupation during the period up to 22 March 2011; and
 - 1.2.2 the events that took place on 22 March 2011, (including the factors that contributed to the disturbances, the occupation of the main administrative building and their subsequent handling).

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The aim is to establish the facts and make recommendations as to how the University should respond in future to large protests, occupations of buildings and major public order incidents on campus with a view to:
 - 2.1.1 striking the right balance between the right to protest and the normal operation of the University, and
 - 2.1.2 minimising the prospect of public disorder on campus.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1 The Inquiry will examine:
 - 3.1.1 the nature of the occupation of Hetherington House;
 - 3.1.2 the University's response to the occupation of Hetherington House and to the subsequent occupation of the main administrative building;
 - 3.1.3 the liaison that took place between University staff and Strathclyde Police prior to, during and following the disturbances on 22 March 2011;

3.1.4 the liaison that took place between University staff and student representatives (including the SRC) during the occupations.

4. **CONDUCT**

- 4.1 The Inquiry Panel will be chaired by The Rector, Charles Kennedy and will also include one representative from each of the University Court, Senate and the SRC. The University will provide The Rector with the access and resources he requires to conduct the Inquiry as he sees fit.
- 4.2 The Panel will receive evidence from interested parties and individuals who were involved in any of the events under examination or who witnessed any of the events under examination, and which will contribute to the Inquiry achieving its aim.

5. **REPORTING**

- 5.1 The final report of the Inquiry will be made openly available to the public.