

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) – Policy and Protocol

‘Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons...’ The Crime and Disorder Act (1998)

The University of Exeter and Students’ Guild places great importance on its relationship with the local community in which students live and socialise. We encourage students to engage and participate in community life, and in doing so to develop an ethos of personal and social responsibility. Whilst resident in the local community we expect students to behave in a way that is respectful and courteous of their neighbours and other members of their community and not to engage in anti-social behaviour that causes distress or harm to others. This principle also applies to the students who are resident in University accommodation, where we would expect a similar level of responsibility and reasonable behaviour.

When instances of student anti-social behaviour are reported, the University, Students’ Guild and Athletic Union may take action to address any concerns that arise as a result. Where appropriate (depending on the seriousness of the complaint) we will attempt to resolve the matter through informal means, by discussing with the student the impact of their behaviour, and seeking assurances that they will desist from this behavior in the future. Repeat and/or more serious allegations may require a more formal response and may result in referral to the University Disciplinary Procedures.

Where appropriate we will work in partnership with the police in responding to complaints regarding ASB. Where the anti-social behaviour is considered as potential criminal activity; the police may investigate and decide whether to launch criminal proceedings.

As part of our partnership, the University have established an Information Sharing Protocol with the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. This protocol allows swift joint action to be taken when student anti-social behaviour has been identified.

The University is committed to educating students about the impact of anti-social behaviour, and the long term impact that can result through criminal conviction. We aim to use this Policy to assist in developing and enhancing a harmonious relationship between students and permanent local residents within Exeter.

Levels of anti-social behaviour

The University will gauge the seriousness of reported student anti-social behaviour based on one or more of the following factors:

- **The timing of the incident**
Has the incident occurred at a time that has caused aggravation? (e.g. late into the evening or in the early hours of the morning?)
- **Community Impact**
Have multiple calls been received from community members? Have any attempts been made to mitigate a disturbance? (e.g. advance consultation with neighbours?)
- **Involvement from other agencies**
Has the incident placed a strain on the resources of other agencies? (e.g. The Police, Estate Patrol, Ambulance Service, Fire Service, Community Patrol?)
- **Level of cooperation**
Has the student (or students) involved in an incident of anti-social behaviour been obstructive or obtrusive when reasonable concerns have been raised?
- **Repeat Offences**
Has the student (or students) been involved in previous instances of proven anti-social behaviour? Have previous recommendations/conditions been breached?

Potential Sanctions/Interventions:

Based on the above factors, a variety of interventions and sanctions can be considered by relevant University Officers, in cooperation with the Student Conduct Office. In some instances it may be relevant to escalate an incident directly to the Student Conduct Office. Potential sanctions and Interventions are outlined in section 11.8 of the Disciplinary Procedure.