

**Imperial College Union**

**Health and Safety Committee**

**13 March 2019**

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| **AGENDA ITEM NO.** | **14** |
| **TITLE** | **Metric Crowd Control** |
| **AUTHOR** | **Malcolm Martin** |
| **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** | The question of over crowding on busy nights in Metric night club has been raised by concerned students on more than one occasion. A solution has been found and trialled on a number of occasions since the winter carnival in December 2018.  Union Bar management are very confident that the problem has now been successfully managed and the risk has been mitigated. |
| **PURPOSE** | This brief report is to provide reassurance to the Health and Safety committee that Manager have adequately responded to the safety concerns that have been raised. |
| **DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED** | **For Information** |

Introduction

The question of overcrowding on busy nights when entering Metric night club has been raised by concerned students on more than one occasion. The committee has previously reflected on this. The issue only manifests itself when students enter the night club on certain nights as currently there is only one doorway in use to enter and egress from the venue.

On busy nights crowds previously gathered in the entrance hall way to Beit Quad which serves 568, Metric, the stairway to upper floors and the ground floor toilets.

Solution

The Union Bar Management have found a solution where queueing is managed outside the entrance hall in the open space in the Quad. The entrance hall way is kept clear at all times during busy nights. The new queuing system has been in place since the winter carnival on 14 December 2018 where its trial was successful.

Visitor counts are conducted routinely when Metric night club space is in use and the following stats are on file for 3 of the most recent busy events when the new queuing system was in use:

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| **Event** | **Date of Event** | **Peak no. in venue** |
| Winter Carnival | 14 December 2018 | 840 @ 11:30pm |
| ACC Sports Night | 27 February 2019 | 950 @ 10:30pm |
| Varsity | 2 March 2019 | 222 @ 9:00pm |
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Next Steps

As a contingency measure, the Union management considered the use of the fire doors on the west side of Beit Quad which provide a potential pathway to both the Residential block and the Metric night club.

The Fire department were contacted in December 2018 and their email response in appendix 1 has highlighted no barriers with bringing the route into use on busy nights.

A discussion with the Residential Manager for Beit Quad is needed to consider the sound impact of such a move. A full risk assessment needs to be conducted by Bar Management to ascertain the suitability of this contingent option.

Conclusion

Union Bar Management are content with the current solution and are not presently considering using the fire escape route to provide safe entrance and egress to Metric night club.

**Appendix 1**

**From:** Fanning, Sean M <s.fanning@imperial.ac.uk>   
**Sent:** 06 December 2018 17:40  
**To:** Martin, Malcolm J <m.martin@imperial.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** Forrester, Asher E <a.forrester@imperial.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Entrance and Egress to Metric Night Club

Dear Malcolm

The short answer is yes . From a fire safety perspective the door on the west , nearest the toilets, can be used for either access or egress .

Although a fire exit from the residential accommodation  also discharged into this final exit , this would not be a barrier to the use of the door for both access and egress .

KR

Sean

Sent from my iPhone

On 6 Dec 2018, at 17:07, Martin, Malcolm J <[m.martin@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:m.martin@imperial.ac.uk)> wrote:

Dear Sean

We are constantly looking at ways to improve the footfall flow through Metric. Is there a possibility that we could use the entrance on the West side of Beit Quad, next  to the Biet accommodation block (via the toilets and fire escape)  to access Metric on busy nights?

I’ll send you an invite as its probably easier to show you and discuss the varies possibilities.

Please advise.

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| **Malcolm Martin FCCA** Head of Finance and Resources  Tel: 020 7594 8070 | Mobile: 07714 051 253 | |
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