

FAQs From Spiking Town Hall

Here is a [link to the Union's response](#) to an increase in spiking incidents in the UK.

1. Security have confiscated alcohol instead of looking for dangerous items during bag checks prior to entry to the Union bar. This does not inspire confidence.

Response from Nathalie Podder, Deputy Vice-President Welfare (DPW): In order to deal with welfare incidents, the Union is looking to appoint student welfare wardens rather than security staff, who are not well-equipped to deal with these incidents.

2. Is security aware of the welfare room and first aid?

Security have been briefed on Ask for Angela, and they have been told to signpost students who are ill to first aid. We have now prepared a document explaining these measures which has been provided to them at the last briefing (which took place before ACC on November 24).

3. Has security staff undergone sexual violence training?

DPW: Security is contracted externally, which means they cannot undergo Union training. The Union is planning to draft a new tender to negotiate better training provision for the security personnel that are sent to us. As a stop-gap measure, welfare wardens will be implemented.

4. Bag checks are not thorough, and potentially discriminatory. Can security signpost students?

DPW: Yes, signposting should be able to be done by security. Having welfare wardens perform bag checks may also be a more effective measure, as their purpose will be to look out for the wellbeing of their peers.

5. Will there be any other action taken other than consent training?

DPW: Yes, let's bring together campaign groups and interested students to work on this. The Union is also working on the disciplinary review which should help to enforce cultural change. The College's working group for the disciplinary review will start next term. This will include student consultation.

6. Will the ban list for all venues be updated?

DPW: The ban list will be included in the security review.

7. I'm not confident using Union venues anymore because I believe students have been spiked in these venues and removed by security staff. What will you do to address this?

DPW: This is the main reason why I'm in the role, and I'm sorry that the Union has failed you in making you feel safe. If you see an incidence of this happening, please start a complaint so that the Union knows about it and can address it. You can also email me directly (dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk).

8. An SVLO never responded to me after I asked for a report to send to the police. This is unacceptable.

DPW: The Union will follow up with the College to make sure that SVLOs understand what their role entails. For your specific case, let's meet up separately to talk about it.

8. CSPs should be able to get drink covers if these happen outside of Union venues.

DPW: This is a great suggestion, we can incorporate this in CSP training and find a way to provide drink covers.

9. The complaint systems should be better advertised for bad experiences with security.

DPW: The complaints process will be reviewed and this will include data-sharing with the College to make it easier to follow and more transparent.

10. Can the lids be kept on the bar rather than behind?

Originally, this was an attempt to ration them as we had limited supply and weren't able to restock quickly. We also need to use a pint cup for use with the lids, so it is helpful for the bar staff to know when the order is going in that the customer wants a lid. There was also the worry that, if put in plain view, the lids may be soiled or tampered with. Once we get the stock levels back up, we plan to keep some of the lids out in front of the bar, and some behind in order to mitigate these potential issues.

11. Can the Union implement gender neutral toilets?

DPW: Gender neutral toilets exist in the building which we can advertise better, and we can look into gauging student interest around transforming more stalled toilets into gender neutral toilets.

12. How can the Union tackle victim-blaming culture from security?

DPW: We will review the security contract and there is a separate disciplinary process for staff.