Support arrested Student Protestors

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: SU President
CONTACT: su-president@sheffield.ac.uk

The Students’ Union notes:

1. Attending demonstrations and participating in political activity often carries a risk of being arrested;
2. Being arrested is a distressing experience;
3. “SU-supported political activity” refers to political activity which has been organised by the SU, or political activity to which the SU has organised transport for its members, and has therefore given its implicit support.

The Students’ Union believes:

1. The policing of demonstrations and political activity is often heavy-handed and indiscriminate;
2. Sheffield SU has a duty of care towards its members;
3. This duty of care extends to SU-supported political activity.

The Students’ Union resolves:

a. For Sheffield SU students participating in SU-supported political activity:
   1. To provide “bust cards” with information on what to do if arrested;
   2. To liaise with organisers for details of legal firms willing to offer legal support;
   3. To include information on what to do if arrested, alongside legal advice, in a safety briefing.

b. For Sheffield SU students arrested for participating in SU-supported political activity, insofar as lawful to do so:
   1. To cover the cost of returning to Sheffield, including travel, accommodation and food costs;
   2. To protect the anonymity of arrestees.

POLICY HISTORY:

Approved by Students Union Council in November 2016.

This policy is next due for review in November 2019.