

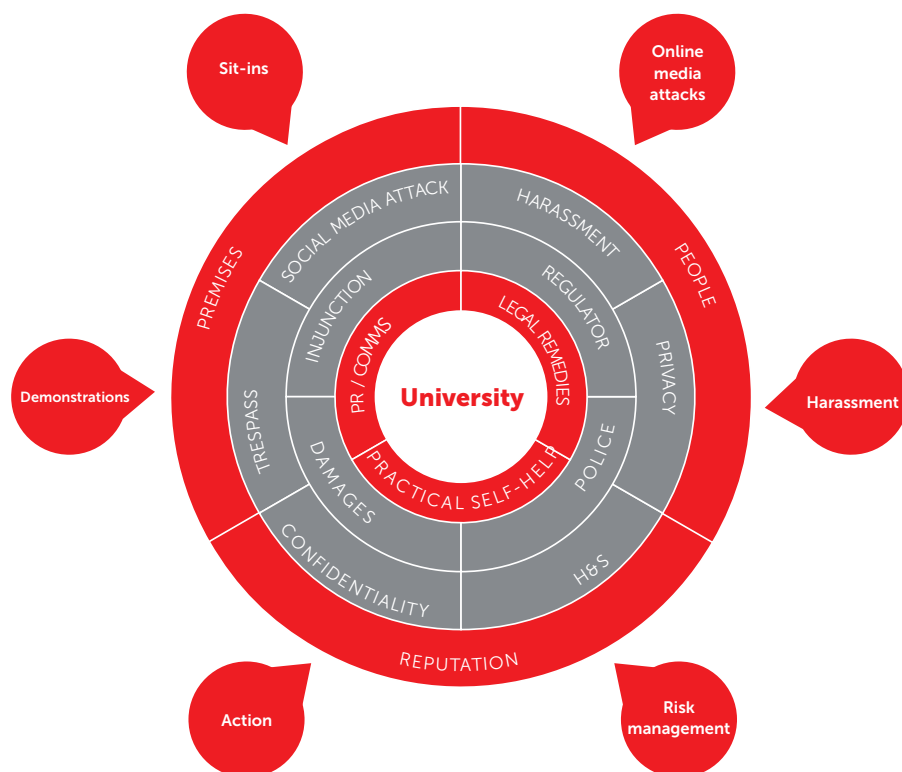
Thinking ahead

Helping you plan for and react to campus unrest



At a time of unprecedented change for the sector - and political and economic uncertainty- incidents of unrest on campus are becoming increasingly common. To manage a crisis effectively institutions must think ahead. To be ready not reactive.

Protestor disruption on campus can be triggered by a wide range of issues: student, staff or external.	We have a proven track record of helping clients to respond to high profile, politically sensitive incidents on campus across the education sector.
The issues which spark protests can escalate quickly and draw in different sections of the campus population without warning.	Our experienced property, student and industrial relations, media law and governance lawyers work as one team to provide a swift and effective response whatever the risks posed.
Social media means that campaigns can become high profile, damaging to your reputation and difficult to manage very quickly.	Drawing on our experience of handling high-profile protestor actions (for instance in the fracking industry), we bring together key stakeholders across the institution to ensure an effective and consistent legal, practical and PR response to the campaign.
On campus disruption has the potential to cause long-term damage to the reputation of the institution and its senior officers.	We help institutions prepare for the risk of campaigns and disruption through scenario planning and crisis management workshops.



Better prepared to make better decisions

Disruption on campus can arise and escalate very quickly. In a moment of crisis, it can be challenging to understand your options for responding, achieve clarity on risk implications and maintain robust decision-making processes. The key to an effective response is to be ready.

Forward planning enables you to consider whether preventative measures are possible; to be better informed about the options if disruption hits and to make more effective decisions in a crisis scenario. To be ready not reactive.

Experience

We can help you lay the groundwork to enable you to respond swiftly and comprehensively if a problem hits. We have advised a number of institutions on their responses to student protests and unrest on campus. For any institution, balancing the legal and practical options with human rights considerations and constitutional freedoms is critical-including from a reputational perspective. We understand that court action is almost always the last resort and are experienced in advising institutions on "self-help" interventions for achieving resolution.

We use this experience to help you navigate through competing considerations and stakeholder viewpoints to find the best way forward. If all else fails, we have experience in pursuing urgent court proceedings and obtaining possession orders. We can also help you respond to social media campaigns appropriately.

Prepare

Thorough scenario planning helps you identify likely trigger events, escalation points and any vulnerabilities within your institution's site or systems and your range of options for dealing with these.

Forward planning means that those risks can be proactively assessed and mitigated.

Plan

Our tool kit enables you to:

- put the right structures and plans in place to respond to disruption confidently and effectively
- establish the team, action plans and decision-making matrices
- address any gaps and vulnerabilities
- develop effective response plans

Respond

If it's all systems go, then our advance preparations and structured implementation approach will enable you to:

- deliver your plan quickly and smoothly
- capture evidence effectively
- develop a comms plan which is timely and consistent with the wider strategy
- ensure that practical risks are robustly managed

Key contacts

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