

## Anti-social behaviour (ASB) - Guidelines

**‘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)**

Ulster University and Ulster Student Union place great importance on its’ relationships with local communities where students live and socialise. We encourage students to engage and participate in community life and in doing so develop an ethos of personal and social responsibility.

Whilst resident in the local community we expect students to behave in a manner that is respectful and courteous to their neighbours and other members of the community. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) that causes distress or harm to others isn’t acceptable in any form. Social life is an important part of the university experience but it should never impact negatively on your neighbours, fellow students’, university staff, your family, your studies or your future career.

When complaints regarding off campus ASB are reported to the University, they will be investigated by designated officers. Depending on the seriousness of the complaint, officers will attempt to resolve the matter through informal means by discussing with the student the impact their behaviour has on the immediate neighbour, the wider community and the University’s reputation. If resolved these cases will be filed as issuing advice and guidance to the student.

Repeated and more serious allegations will require a formal response and result in the University’s Student Disciplinary Procedures being initiated.

Where appropriate the University will work in partnership with local councils and the Policing Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) in responding to ASB complaints. If ASB is considered as potential criminal activity; the police will investigate and decide whether to launch criminal proceedings.

Ulster University has an information sharing agreement with the PSNI. This agreement allows swift action to be taken regarding student ASB.

The University is committed to educating students on the impact of ASB; the consequences and implications a criminal conviction will have on their career choices at home and abroad.

These guidelines will assist in raising awareness to students of the importance of a harmonious relationship between students and their host community. Also the importance of acting in a manner that will avoid risks to career choices.

# Ulster University

## 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:

### **1. 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?)

### **2. Involvement from other agencies**

Has the incident placed a strain on the resources of agencies? (e.g. The Police, Belfast City Council's Noise Team & Safety Neighbour Officers, Ambulance Service, Fire Service, University staff)

### **3. 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?

### **4. 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?)

### **5. Repeat Offences**

Has the student (or students) been involved in previous instances of proven anti-social behaviour? Have previous recommendations/conditions been breached?

### **6. Offensive behaviour/actions**

Has derogatory language /actions towards the opposite sex, law enforcement, public agencies, general public, University Staff/students been alleged?

Has sectarian language /actions towards law enforcement, public agencies, general public, University Staff/student been alleged?

### **7. Media**

Impact on University's reputation by collective or named individuals

## Potential Sanctions/interventions:

Based on the above factors, a range of interventions and penalties can be considered by the relevant University Officers. Where appropriate, cases can be forwarded to Provosts, Heads of Schools and the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with Ordinance XLII Student Disciplinary Procedures. Potential sanctions are outlined in Schedule C to Ordinance XLII <http://plangov.ulster.ac.uk/policyimplementation/studentdiscipline.html>