

## **Accessibility in Bolton Street**

### **Student Council Notes**

Bolton Street Campus is often regarded within the student (and staff) community as being one of the least accessible within TU Dublin. This perception & reality has only been worsened by the limited availability and frequent breakdown of the sole operating elevator within the campus, due to the decommissioning of other previously used elevators.

### **Student Council further Notes**

TU Dublin has repeatedly pledged its support for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion through major publications (including 'TU Dublin Strategic Intent 2030' & 'TU Dublin Equality Statement 2019-2022'), and via its ongoing application for awards such as the Institutional 'Athena SWAN' Bronze Medal.

### **Student Council notes with Concern**

Despite these policies, action plans, and statements, all insisting upon equality of access to education, this is not reflected in the facilities offered to a significant cohort of students in the Bolton Street campus. This insufficient access to the campus (due to poor lift access, and other accessibility concerns outlined below) may also conflict with Irish legislation aimed at promoting equal access to education for individuals with physical disabilities, namely:

- Disability Act 2005
- Equal Status Acts 2000-2018
- Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004

### **Student Council therefore Mandates**

The President of TU Dublin Students' Union, assisted by the City Campus VP, to write a formal letter to senior University staff involved in both 'Health & Safety' and 'Estates', highlighting the following accessibility issues:

- Poor elevator access, availability, and frequency
- Weight of fire doors with no automatic open button / magnetic latch
- Redundant fire doors [which only serve to diminish accessibility]
- Lack of wheelchair-accessible tables in most classrooms
- Potential lack of adherence to Irish legislation

This letter must be signed and sent by the President, before the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### **Student Council further Mandates**

The Union Executive to flag these issues at all of the relevant upcoming University fora (including but not limited to: Bolton Street Health, Safety & Welfare meeting, University Health, Safety & Welfare Steering Committee meeting & EDI Governing Body Sub-Committee), until an acceptable outcome [decided by Council] is achieved.

### **Student Council further Mandates**

The Union Executive & Part-Time Officers (in particular, the PTO for Disabilities) to advocate for increased funding towards the Bolton Street Campus, with a particular focus towards ensuring minimum accessibility standards are met.

**Proposed by:** Aleksander Biegalski, Student Councillor

**Seconded by:** Brian Jordan, President