

## **Fire Alarm Investigation Protocol**

### **Rationale**

At the moment the University has over 400 false activations of fire alarms a year, which means that the Fire Brigade are on campus every day summoned by an automatic call made by the fire detection system. These false activations are often caused by things such as dust, steam from kettles and deodorant sprays.

To try to prevent this huge number of false callouts the University has implemented the 'fire alarm investigation' (in collaboration with the Fire Brigade). When the alarm goes and evacuation is happening, a trained person will investigate the area where the detection system has activated. If it is clearly a false alarm then the Fire Brigade callout will be cancelled. If the trained person does not report a false alarm within 5 minutes then the Brigade will automatically be sent out.

### **Does this mean I have to wait 5 minutes to report a fire?**

Definitely not! If you see, smell or hear a fire, raise the alarm by activating a break glass and ring 222 or 999 from an area of safety.

### **Isn't this more likely to lead to a serious fire if we have this 5 minute delay?**

Ideally we'd prefer not to have a fire in the first place and all members of staff and students should be doing all they can to reduce the likelihood of fire. This means taking simple precautions such as making sure equipment doesn't overheat, not using banned electrical heaters, not overloading electrical sockets and ensuring that fire doors are kept shut at all times.

A Fire Door can contain a fire in a room for up to 30 minutes allowing time for safe evacuation and reducing damage to the rest of the building considerably, **BUT** they cannot work if they are wedged open.

### **Isn't this just a cost cutting exercise by the University?**

At the moment we don't get charged for any call-outs due to false activations.

However, we live in a small community with limited Fire Brigade resources. If the Fire Brigade are on campus investigating a false alarm, they are not available to fight a fire elsewhere in the Aberystwyth area or to rescue motorists in crashed cars. We have a moral duty to reduce the number of Brigade attendances to false alarm activations at the University.