

# Former University Head of Security secures consultancy role with Hes East contractor

**Henry James Foy**  
EDITOR

A FORMER SENIOR University Employee whose position was dissolved during the recent changes to the campus portering service has been employed on a consultancy basis for a firm contracted by the University on the Heslington East Expansion project.

Former Head of Security Services Ken Batten, who was involved in awarding the Hes East contract to security firm KABA, stepped into the advisory role almost immediately after leaving the University. The terms of Batten's contract termination are unknown, though they are thought to include benefits relative to his employment at the University.

"This was a formal tender process conducted under EU procurement legislation. Ken Batten, as Head of Security at the time, was involved in drawing up the specification for the contract. He was not on the panel which considered the tenders and awarded the contract," stated University Press Officer David Garner.

When contacted by *Nouse*, KABA, who are fitting all the locks and access doors on the expansion, were unable to provide a response. Batten was unavailable for comment.

Batten's former role was dissolved after the Portering Services

moved under the control of Campus Services head Sue Johnston as part of the recent restructuring of the service.

*Nouse* understands that the cuts originally favoured by the University, and supported by Batten, mandated the complete termination of both the Derwent and Vanbrugh lodges this October.

The revised plan, which was subsequently adopted and provides for a day portering service in Vanbrugh and Derwent, and the amalgamation of the service under the Campus Services umbrella removed the need for Batten's former position, which oversaw the Portering and Security teams. The latter is currently being overseen by Bailey Oliver.

It is understood that the termination of Batten's contract provided a uncertain amount of funding that assisted in the continuation of a 12-hour service at the Derwent and Vanbrugh lodges.

Batten was regarded by many of the campus porters as a main proponent of the continued pressure to shrink the portering service by the University. After telling YUSU Senate that the shutting down of three of the seven college porters' lodges for an extended period in 2007 was "impossible to anticipate", one porter claimed that Batten was "an out-and-out liar."

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ALLY CARMICHAEL



Batten holds a consultancy role with Hes East contractor KABA

## Bretts boasts of Courtyard success

DEMOCRACY AND Services Officer Lewis Bretts has released a set of statistics illustrating the success of The Courtyard so far this term. Managing to sell over 7,700 pints, 1,600 burgers and 4,600 coffees, the bar appears set to make a large profit for YUSU in the final term of its first full year of operation. Bretts said that he was "really pleased that students are using their Union bar, it's always worth remembering that all of its profits go back into funding societies, sports clubs and union services". The former Langwith Bar was opened after much delay and controversy in January 2009.

## YUSU support LGBT campaign

YUSU LGBT officers have voiced their support for NUS' campaign to allow gay and bisexual men to give blood. Peter Warner-Medley, a YUSU LGBT officer said: "It's important - particularly now when blood stocks are low - that people realise that the epidemiology this ban is based on is no longer relevant or valid and that we need new, safer restrictions." Currently, men who have ever had oral or anal sex with another man are banned for life from donating blood. The National Union of Students (NUS) argues that this is "discriminatory and perpetuates the myth that AIDS is a 'gay disease'".

## Anniversary of York Campus Nursery

YORK CAMPUS Nursery celebrated its 20th anniversary on Tuesday. Present at the evening, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Estates Elizabeth Heaps said that it is a "brilliant nursery", with the children benefiting from a mixture of nationalities and a green area outside to grow their own food. She added that it was "lovely to see so many here tonight." Nurse Angela Gilmore has worked at the nursery for 15 years. "I'm very happy working here", she said, "we've some brilliant providers of care and there's a good ethos about the place; it's great because the people that come here, stay here."

Reporting by Ben Gascoyne, Vivian Chung and Robin Synnot

# Disabled students left without vital equipment

**Victoria Lee**  
NEWS REPORTER

DISABLED STUDENTS at the University of York are "in dire need" of basic equipment to allow them to study, according to Deb Taylor, the University Disabilities Advisor.

Student Finance England, the body responsible for providing student loans and the Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA), has failed to process DSA applications in time for the start of the academ-

ic year.

This means many disabled students at the University have been left waiting for funding for vital equipment, with no strong assurances made as to when it may be eventually received.

According to Deb Taylor: "Even students who applied on time or early [for their DSA] are still waiting" for their applications to be processed.

One disabled student from Langwith College, who asked to remain anonymous, described receiving a phone call from

Student Finance England two weeks before she was due to start University, in which she was told her application was unlikely to be processed any time before November.

The student described how "starting University with a disability is difficult enough, but having to start knowing there will be no support in place or funding for equipment is just horrible."

The idea of disabled students going without basic and necessary equipment has angered many and led to questions over the wisdom of

the centralisation of the student loans body. Yet, when asked to comment on the delays caused by his organisation, Seymour-Jackson described the situation as, "reasonable".

YUSU Welfare Officer Ben Humphreys commented that: "It's unacceptable that students who need help to access their course are being let down by the system in this way. Student Finance England needs to act quickly for all those students who are being disadvantaged by the failure to sort out the mess of student finance this year."

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Fresher or final-year, sooner or later the tricky question of employment will pose itself. Are we going about finding a job in the best way? **Camilla Jenkins** starts by trying to find the Careers Service building.

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