

NATIONAL STRATEGY URGENTLY NEEDED FOR RESIDENTS LIVING CLOSE TO UNIVERSITIES IN IRELAND

Residents meet new UCC President to voice concerns

The Residents Group living in areas around UCC have called for a National Strategy to deal with the ever increasing antisocial and criminal damage being caused by a minority of students living close to all universities right across the country.

Residents living around UCC witnessed unprecedented antisocial behaviour and criminal damage by students returning for the new Semester this week.

The Residents Association said that following a meeting with UCC President, John O'Halloran they welcome the strong words ('be no doubt' - his words) that he will not be found wanting in issuing fines to students (€75 to €5,000), sanctions, suspensions and expulsions for breaches of the University Code of Behaviour.

We also welcome the joint email sent to all students of both UCC and MTU urging students to act responsibly, to be mindful of the community in which they live and not to take any action that **will** impact their future.

Chairperson of the Residents Association, Catherine Clancy said: "The Residents Association Chairperson and Secretary also met with Supt. Colm O'Sullivan on Thursday to again to highlight the escalation of antisocial behaviour and criminal damage on the first night of UCC Sophomore Week. While he assured us that arrests and fines have been issued over the last number of days along with ASBOs issued over the last number of weeks, we are now calling as residents for a national strategy to deal with the ever increasing antisocial and criminal damage by students living in University areas in this country."

"We are also calling for the licensing and planning regulations for residential properties being converted to houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) from where most of this antisocial and criminality emanates."

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