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**The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Department of Computer Science and Technology  
Buildings and Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 1 February 2022, 11 a.m.  
via Teams**

**AGENDA**

**Members:**

Prof Simon Moore, Chairman (SWM)  
Dr Piete Brooks (PB)  
Celia Burns, Secretary (CB)  
Thomas Bytheway (TB)  
Dr Matthew Danish (MRD)

Martin McDonnell (MJM)  
Caroline Stewart (CS)  
Malcolm Scott (MAS)  
Facilities Manager (Vacant)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2021 are attached.

**3. Matters Arising**

**4. Coronavirus Update**

**5. Committee Membership**

**(a) Facilities Manager:** a replacement for Ian Burton-Palmer, who has now left the Department, is to be appointed.

**(b) PhD Representation:** the Postgraduate Student Forum reported last year that, despite it having extensively promoted the opening for a representative on this committee, no interest had been shown. Do Committee members wish to revisit this item now?

**6. William Gates Cycle Parking and Landscaping of JJ Thomson Avenue**

Works on the cycle parking and the landscaping had been delayed and would need to be rescheduled for the next appropriate closure period. MRD to report.

**7. Reducing Energy Consumption**

**(a) Monitoring energy consumption:** SWM and PB were going to contact Roger Ling, Estates Division, to follow up on the problem with the data on electricity supply/usage from Trend. SWM to report.

## **8. Building Matters**

### **a) Lighting**

#### ***i) Atrium Lighting***

The Committee agreed at the April 2020 meeting to defer the issue of whether to revert to fluorescent lamps in The Street until we are back in the building and can assess how the current lighting is working out. Do Committee members wish to revisit this item now?

#### ***ii) Lighting in the LTs***

The replacement lighting for LT2 is on hold. Regarding the lighting in LT1, an application had been submitted to the Energy Team some time ago, but it was not clear whether it was being processed. CS was going to pass a copy of the signed application form to the Facilities Manager to follow up with the Energy Team. CS to report.

#### ***iii) Lighting in SW01***

There was an issue with one of the diffusers not sitting in its housing properly. The Facilities Manager was going to follow this up with Thorn Lighting to report. Is anyone aware of any updates?

### **b) Fire strategy for the William Gates building**

#### ***i) Refurbished doors to the courtyards***

One of the doors was not opening. MJM was going to follow this up with the company concerned. MJM to report.

### **c) Verex security system**

UIS had announced the launch of its new card management platform and Graham Hatt was working on integrating University cards with our database. MAS to report.

### **d) Building management system (cooling and heating)**

MJM to update the Committee on the current situation.

### **e) Refit of the WGB Library**

CS was going to follow up with Ian Lewis about the folding doors so that the specification for the refit could be completed and passed to Estates Division as soon as possible with a view to works starting in April. CS to report.

### **f) Cleaning service**

A year's dispensation had been granted (from 1 September 2021) to continue with the current contractor, cleanTEC. A tendering process to change the dispensation into a contract (with cleanTEC or another supplier) would need to be set up three or four months before the end of the dispensation (end of April). Do Committee members wish to revisit this item now?

### **g) Alcove Conversions**

The alcove conversions were progressing slowly and there were long lead times for doors and chilled beams. The possibility of using the FE06 space without the chilled beams and

doors had been discussed but there were concerns about safety. It had been agreed that if it was safe to do so, the space could be used while awaiting the beams, along with temporary furniture until best occupancy levels could be gauged and suitable furniture ordered accordingly. CS/MJM to report.

#### **h) Clearing of FN11 Machine Room**

MAS was going to deal with the items on the server racks, with the help of TB. Regarding the items on the shelves, Chris Hadley and Richard Mortier have been asked to think about how the equipment of historical interest might be dealt with. MAS to report.

#### **i) Damaged Baffle Panels on the Roof**

The original contractor had strapped down the materials and made the panels safe but had subsequently gone bankrupt. The Facilities Manager was going to follow up this issue with Andrew Kerley and Chris Dixon, Estates Division, about getting another contractor to assess the damage. MJM to report if he is aware of the situation.

#### **j) Office Floor Boxes**

A concern was raised in October 2021 by a member of the Department that electrical works that had been carried out might significantly reduce the reliability of the power supply in offices, with circuit breakers tripping more frequently. At the time the concern was raised, it was confirmed that only one of the new circuit breakers had needed to be reset. SWM to report (see attached email correspondence).

### **9. AV Matters**

#### **a) Projector in FW26**

MJM to report on the status of the installation of the projector.

### **10. Electricity Devolution Project (EDP)**

#### **(a) Solar panels**

The Facilities Manager was going to follow up with the University's Energy Team as to whether the University would be willing to pay for solar installation. It is suggested we bring this forward to a meeting when a replacement for the Facilities Manager has been appointed.

### **11. West Cambridge Wayfinding Stakeholder Consultation**

CS and SWM have responded to the survey from the University requesting comments about signage on the West Cambridge site.

### **12. Any Other Business**

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**



**From:** [Simon Moore](#)  
**To:** [Celia Burns](#)  
**Cc:** [CL Departmental Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Office floor boxes are now on 30 mA RCDs  
**Date:** 20 October 2021 15:14:03

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Hello Celia,

Martin confirms that he has only need to reset one of the new RCBO's, the one for Markus. Unless the RCBO tripping problem becomes widespread, I don't propose to act quickly. We could add the item to the next Buildings & Environment Committee agenda so that we can review the situation.

- Simon

[Simon W Moore][<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/swm11> ]

On 20 Oct 2021, at 14:25, Simon Moore <[simon.moore@cl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:simon.moore@cl.cam.ac.uk)> wrote:

Hello Celia -

First I need to know why the changes have been made. It might well be in response to changing standards.

Ideally I'd ask the Building Services Manager to investigate, but I think this will be ineffective at present.

Have there been other reports of circuit breakers tripping?

- Simon

[Simon W Moore][<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/swm11> ]

On 20 Oct 2021, at 09:14, Celia Burns <[cb801@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cb801@cam.ac.uk)> wrote:

Dear Simon,

Ann has asked me to find out what action you, as Chair of the Buildings & Environment Committee, would like to take in response to Markus' email below.

Kind regards  
Celia

*Celia Burns*  
Faculty Administrator  
Department of Computer Science and Technology  
Tel. 01223 763828  
[faculty-admin@cst.cam.ac.uk](mailto:faculty-admin@cst.cam.ac.uk)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** Office floor boxes are now on 30 mA RCDs

**Date:** Tue, 19 Oct 2021 17:49:00 +0100

**From:** Markus Kuhn <[Markus.Kuhn@cl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Markus.Kuhn@cl.cam.ac.uk)>

**To:** [hod-team@cl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:hod-team@cl.cam.ac.uk) <[hod-team@cl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:hod-team@cl.cam.ac.uk)>

I'm writing to express my concern about the electrical work that has taken place last week, as it might significantly reduce the reliability of the power supply in our offices.

I am worried that there is a significant risk that circuit breakers will trip more frequently in future and each time take out about half of all floor-box sockets on one side of a corridor.

This has already happened once in my office, last Wednesday, within hours of the change being installed.

When we moved into this building, I was under the impression that a conscious decision had been made not to protect the 40 A bus bars that supply our offices with residual-current devices (RCDs) that disconnect a circuit if the earth leakage current exceeds 30 mA. This is because each PC can have an earth leakage current in the region of 1-3 mA, some printers possibly even more, and a 30 mA RCD can already trip at half its rated current, so if there are 5-15 devices plugged in at half of all desks on one side of a corridor, we could get worryingly close to that tripping threshold. In addition, there can be surges when devices are plugged in (as had happened to me last Wednesday). The current very low occupancy levels may delay us finding out that this is going to be a problem.

In addition, I am somewhat concerned that

- neither the sys-admin team nor the departmental safety officer appear to have been made aware of this change;

- the type of RCD (RCBO actually) installed (type AC) is specifically only intended for resistive loads, such as incandescent light bulbs or heaters, and is specifically not recommended for installations, like ours, where most loads are switch-mode power supplies.

I've also raised these concerns already on the safety-cttee mailing list and cc-ed Simon last week.

These residual-current circuit breakers are located in the

corridor wiring closets, out of reach of our keys. So if one of these trips accidentally out of hours, e.g. close to a submission deadline, it could become quite inconvenient, as users won't be able to reset these breakers themselves, and have to wait until the start of the next working day.

Markus

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Markus Kuhn, Department of Computer Science and  
Technology  
<https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~mgk25/> | University of  
Cambridge

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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.  
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