



Drinking Water Policy (2017)

1. Purpose

The University's Strategic Plan 2016 states that "as a truly global university, rooted in Scotland's capital city, we make a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to the world". As part of our strategic objectives we have committed to supporting the resources and facilities needed for students' mental and physical well-being. Our strategy also commits us to ensuring sustainability and accessibility are built into our estates.

This policy is a key element of this vision. Drinking water is an issue that concerns students and staff and connects to health and well-being, economics, and environmental sustainability.

2. Expectation and commitments

1. Free-standing Bottled Water Coolers should not be located on University premises. Existing units should be removed.
2. Students, staff and visitors should have access to drinking water from drinking water stations distributed across University Campuses.
3. Students, staff and visitors should be discouraged from accessing drinking water from outlets located in workshops, toilets, laboratories and areas under construction in the interest of hygiene and safety.
4. Drinking water stations shall be provided in convenient locations, they should be adequate in number and clearly identified.
5. The design standards for new buildings and major refurbishments must make a suitable and sufficient provision for drinking water stations.
6. Catering servicing University events shall provide drinking water from taps wherever possible.
7. Only in exceptional circumstances should Plumbed-in Water Coolers be installed, which must be subject to written approval by Estates and the installation and running cost are to be paid by the requester.
8. A rolling programme of testing of potability of water from drinking water stations is to be undertaken and managed by Estates.
9. Education/outreach activities will be supported which promotes access to free drinking water, together with seeking to reduce plastic.

3. Responsibility and scope

This policy has been developed by the Estates Department, the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS), the Department for Accommodation, Catering and Events (ACE) and the Students' Association.

4. Implementation and review

This policy will be prominently displayed for visitors at events venues and on our website. Estates and SRS will coordinate a policy review every 3 years to respond to new developments and meet evolving best practice in the sector.

5. Equality and diversity

Due consideration of equalities duties has been included with the policy review.

6. Support

SRS can provide contacts and advice regarding this policy for staff or students. Press or media enquiries should be directed to the Press Office.

7. Approval and review

<i>Consultations held</i>	The policy was originally developed in 2009 and reviewed and updated in 2012. A review was carried out in 2017 with further updates made. Input was gathered through a variety of channels in 2016 and 2017.
<i>Final approval by</i>	Gary Jebb (Director of Estates) Dave Gorman (Director of Social Responsibility & Sustainability)
<i>Date policy approved</i>	October 2017
<i>Date of commencement of policy</i>	Immediate
<i>Dates for next review of policy</i>	May 2020

8. Contact

For further information, or if this policy is required in an alternative format, please contact Jane Rooney at jane.rooney@ed.ac.uk or call 0131 650 4065.