



London Green Party  
The Biscuit Factory  
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Professor Edward Byrne AC  
President and Principal  
King's College London  
Strand  
LONDON WC2R 2LS

By email to [principal@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:principal@kcl.ac.uk)

19 February 2017

Dear Professor Byrne,

We are elected members of the Green Party in London and understand that in the last few weeks seven students have either been suspended, threatened with suspension, or banned from King's College. We also understand that, in a very unusual step for King's, college authorities have called the police to arrest students for political activities.

We support a number of divestment campaigns and believe that these students want nothing more than proper discussion with you about a change in policy to divest the college's financial affairs from fossil fuels.

It appears also that a clear majority of students and staff support this, with a survey showing 96 per cent of King's College students in favour of divestment.

Please consider speaking with the students and staff who support divestment about the case for taking this step, not only in terms of reducing climate change, but also in real financial terms for the college.

Just to give one example from the wider public sector, in September Waltham Forest Council decided to divest its pension fund holdings from fossil fuels, and to exclude these investments from its strategy over the next five years.[1]

The reasons given by Waltham Forest's Pension Fund Committee include that:

- in investment terms, fossil fuels are increasingly shown to be stranded assets
- investing in companies that rely heavily on replenishing reserves of fossil fuels, at a time when the environmental impact is a matter of increasing scrutiny, is seen as risky.

We urge you to think again about these issues and the sanctions you have imposed on your students. They could have their educational development harmed simply for taking part in entirely non-violent and peaceful protest over climate change which is an issue of great concern to us all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sian Berry', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

**Sian Berry AM**

Green Party Member of the London Assembly (and councillor in Camden)

**Caroline Russell AM**

Green Party Member of the London Assembly (and councillor in Islington)

**Jean Lambert MEP**

Green Party Member of the European Parliament

**Councillor Scott Ainslie**

Green Party, Lambeth Council

cc. Mr Chris Mottershead (Senior Vice President)

Reference:

1. Waltham Forest Pension Fund Committee decisions and minutes September 2016 Report:

<http://democracy.walthamforest.gov.uk/documents/s53634/Performance%20Report%2016%206%2016%20v1.pdf>

Minutes: <http://democracy.walthamforest.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=29424>