

Policy name: Instalment of Bidet Showers in Accessible Bathrooms

Date Presented: 15/02/2023

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Student Council notes:

- For some the bidet is an absolute necessity, a crucial part of every bathroom, required both for comfort and hygiene.
- Every country has a different relationship to the bidet. They are mandatory for new bathrooms in Italy and Portugal, while in Northern Europe they are rare. In Asia and the Middle East, they are incredibly common, especially in the form of bidet hoses.
- Kings College London leads the way in the UK in implementation of what is a necessity for many students with a full comprehensive roadmap in place and a requirement that 10% of new WC facilities will be bidet shower enabled.
- That by using water as a mean of sanitation you will save a lot on the toilet papers. According. Worldwide, the equivalent of almost 270,000 trees is either flushed or dumped in landfills every day and roughly 10 percent of that total is attributable to toilet paper.
- The UK uses 1.3m tonnes of tissue a year, according to the Confederation of Paper Industries, with the average British consumer reportedly getting through 127 rolls every year. But the growing trend for “luxury” four-ply and quilted toilet roll is fuelling the use of virgin pulp to create the softest product. (The Guardian)

Student Council believes:

- UU Estates Department should heavily focus on including sustainable practices into the very DNA of the bidet showers revamp, so that the new facilities are not only environmentally sustainable themselves but also help in cutting down on paper usage we make as an institution overall. With this step, we will move further towards being both an inclusive and environmentally conscious institution, with values that are vital to the wider Ulster University’s community.
- Ulster University is seeing a major rise in the number of applicants and students arriving from international destinations where the bidet is commonplace, and we want to see our university be as open and inclusive to as many students as possible. For many that starts with a welcoming and hygienic environment.
- That we should be ambitious but realistic and seek in line with best practice from KCL to seek 10% of new developments of washroom facilities within the university to have Bidet Shower facilities.
- Student Council believes in choice and being inclusive and as protective of the planet as possible; “Only around 30% of the world’s population uses toilet roll, so we know that there are lots of perfectly hygienic alternatives to using paper-based products. It’s important we consider what we’re using to wipe our behinds with, because at the moment our precious planet is getting a bum deal. (Alex Crumbie, a researcher for Ethical Consumer)

- This policy in co-existence with our gender-neutral bathroom policy seeks to make washroom facilities on campus as inclusive as possible.

Student Council resolves:

- That Ulster University should consider the current registration system in order that, a student can put forward their legal name, their preferred name, and their pronouns. A student's preferred name can be used on their student card and on the university system as to ensure that they are not misnamed or misgendered accidentally by a member of staff or by their peers. This will save both the student from any distress and prevents the other party from being accidentally offensive. This preferred name system while retaining a legal name when of preference to the student will be of benefit to the University to ensure maximum acceptance of students while retaining legal requirements for the purposes of external accreditations and certifications.

Name of Proposer: Student Executive (VP Equality and Belonging)

Name of Seconder: Mahir Abrar Mubarrat