

PROTECTION AGAINST "DISRUPTIVE ACTION"

Universities, shopping areas, sports fixtures, motorways, airports, art galleries and museums and shareholder meetings have all recently featured as some of the target areas for protests by activists, resulting in significant damage and disruption.

The law around enforcement is evolving and owners and occupiers can now take pro-active and decisive action to address these situations. Activist groups are also evolving: groups are now able to co-ordinate action quickly and anonymously via social media channels with very little warning. DAC Beachcroft's experienced multi-disciplinary Disruptive Action team of legal experts is able to provide advice to minimise the risk of potential disruption.

DACB's advice is delivered by lawyers expert in litigation and dispute management- commercial and real estate, insurance, employment and Health & Safety. Our advice is pre-emptive and proactive when planning in advance and we have the resource and experience to act immediately if faced with an urgent situation. As experts in the education sector, we understand the particular concerns faced by educational establishments and the need to balance statutory duties and the right to protest against the protection of people and property in this complex legal area.

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We can support you with any potential issues that may arise, including:-

- Review of contractual arrangements/codes of conduct with staff and students to clarify and tighten policies on protest action
- Review of University title to prepare and update title documents and witness statements in readiness for any urgent legal action
- Front line training for security personnel
- Advice and training to mitigate and manage the impact of disruptive action on staff
- Possession action to remove encampments or deal with unlawful occupation of property
- Injunctions (including Newcomer Injunctions) to protect property and events from the threat of disruptive action
- Advice as to social media and PR impact
- Staff training as to the extent of statutory duties around freedom of speech and the right to protest