

# Access Statement Life Sciences Building

**To be used in conjunction with the University of Bristol  
Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan Process**

## **PURPOSE**

The Access statement is to be read in conjunction with the University Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan process. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/safety/policies/>

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### ***Disabled Building Users***

Building users are strongly encouraged to disclose any disability that could result in additional support being required during an emergency situation prior to accessing the building. For wheelchair users, further discussion with the Facilities Manager may be required in advance of accessing the building to discuss their preferred means of escape.

### ***Teaching Activities, Research and Administration***

For activities involving disabled members of staff or students a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (or "PEEP") should be completed.

Completing a PEEP for disabled members of staff is a joint effort between the disabled member of staff, their line manager and the University's Fire Safety Adviser.

Completing a PEEP for disabled students is a joint effort between the disabled student, Access Unit, the student's School/Department and the University's Fire Safety Adviser.

Please refer to the Health and Safety Office website for detailed information on completing a PEEP: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/safety/a2z.html/#a-z-P>

### ***Conferences***

The Conference/Event Organiser is responsible for ensuring the health and safety of those attending their event and accordingly should not book a venue that is not accessible to those participating in the conference or event. The Conference/Event Organiser should liaise between the Facilities Manager and any disabled delegate requiring assistance in an emergency for further discussion on how they might be evacuated in an emergency situation. This may also involve the completion of a PEEP.

Any publicity materials for events/conferences should include an opportunity for disabled people to disclose any disability that may require additional support and encourage people with mobility impairments to make contact to discuss emergency evacuation procedures.

### ***Meetings***

Any meeting should be scheduled with accessibility in mind. Consideration should be given to how a disabled building user could be evacuated in an emergency situation. Where possible, meetings involving disabled individuals should be held on the ground floor.

A standard statement when arranging meetings should be to ask attendees as far in advance as possible if they have any particular support or accessibility requirements. When informed that an individual will need additional support, steps must be taken to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to provide this and where appropriate the person organising the meeting should liaise between the disabled person and the Facilities Manager for further discussion on how they might be evacuated in an emergency situation.

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**Facilities Manager**

The Facilities Manager will work directly with the disabled person to find the best solution within the parameters of health and safety/equality requirements. The contact details for the Facilities manager are: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/estates/contact/>

## ACCESS STATEMENT

### Name of building: Life Sciences Building

#### Background

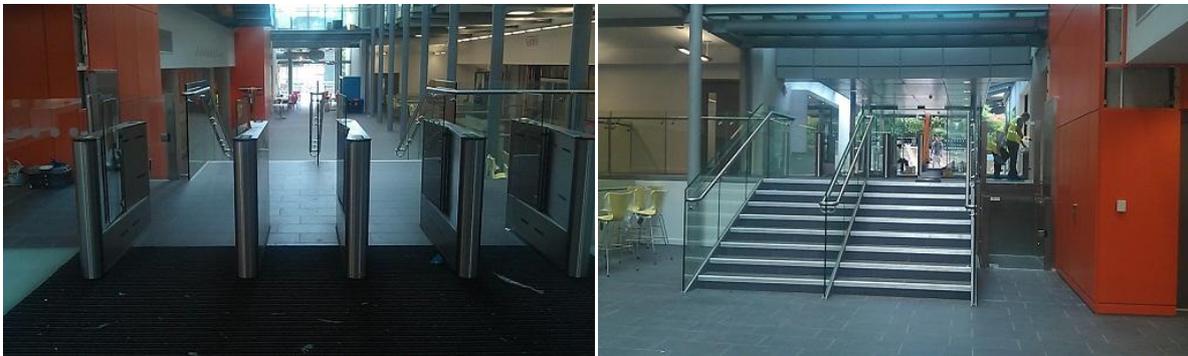
- The Bristol Life Sciences Building was opened in 2014
- The building is primarily used for research and teaching.
- The Building is NOT open to the general public except on Open Days.

#### Parking

- There are no disabled parking spaces at the Life Sciences Building. For disabled parking, staff should contact Security Services to discuss their needs and the closest available parking.
- The Event/Conference Organiser should liaise with the Conference Office/Security Services to arrange for appropriate parking close to the building.

#### Means of Access into the Building

- The Life Sciences Building has a single main point of entry / exit located on Tyndall Avenue with level access in to the building through the main sliding doors.
- Upon entering the building, there are 4 turnstiles one of which is widened for accessible use.
- Both Tyndall Avenue and St Michaels Hill contain steep sections so wheelchair users may find approaching the building from the north easier



*Main Entrance as you go in (left) showing turnstiles and (right) from within the atrium. Note platform lift to the right of the steps.*

*Main entrance from Tyndall Avenue (right)*



#### Reception

- The Porters' Lodge is located inside the main entrance of the building on the left hand side.
- Visitors will be assisted as necessary.

## Toilets

- Accessible toilets are available on every floor from lower ground to 3 on the office side of the building. On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors the accessible toilets are located on the 'lab' side of the building.



*Example of an accessible toilet on the ground floor*

## Lift and Stair Access

### Lifts

- There are 4 main lifts which serve the office side and the lab side of the building
- All floors are accessible by lift.
- There is one wheelchair platform lift near the main entrance at the flight of stairs leading to the atrium area. This should not be used in the event of an emergency, instead, please go to one of the refuge points in core a or b at the front/rear of the building.
- All passenger lifts have voice announcement except for the wheelchair platform lift.

### Stairs

- There are two main staircases (cores a and b) that run the entire height of the building on the lab side.
- On the second floor there are link stairs between the office and lab wings due to the accommodation of an extra floor on the office side of the building.
- There is a cantilevered stair on the office side between floors 1 and 3 which sits directly over the atrium.
- There is a small flight of stairs leading from the main entrance in to the atrium situated on the lower ground floor.



*Example of a staircase (left) and  
refuge point (right)*



### **Refuge Points**

- Refuge points have been designated on all landings of the main stairwells in core a and b with working communication from the refuge to the fire fighting command point via an intercom.

### **Signage**

- Directional and escape signage is located around the building.

### **Doors**

- Doors are mainly large double doors on hold open devices with large push/pull plates/handles.
- The majority of lab doors have assisted opening
- Meeting rooms have sliding glass doors

### **First Aid Room**

- There is a rest room / breastfeeding room on the ground floor by the administration offices.

### **Library**

- Further information on the use of the library for disabled users is available via the web link. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/library/using/disabledusers/>

### **GroDome**

- The GroDome is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor with access via stairs and lift. Within the GroDome itself, the secondary exit is not suitable for wheelchairs so any persons using a wheelchair in

this area should have a PEEP and risk assessment carried out first – this does not apply to the small tech area and corridor outside the GroDome.

## **EMERGENCY EVACUATION OPTIONS**

**Please note that level access from the building to the assembly point is only available from the front of the building. Although there are escape stairs and emergency exits at the rear, there is only stepped access away from these points so anyone with difficulties using steps should ultimately exit via the front of the building unless it is not safe to do so.**

### **Assisted Escape/ Buddy system**

Many of the detectors in the Life Sciences building have strobes. However, a buddy system may still be required for alerting a hearing impaired or deaf person to the operation of a fire alarm. The Conference/Event Organiser should ensure that a steward is designated with this responsibility and for assisting the individual if necessary should the fire alarm sound.

### **Make own way down stairs slowly**

Some people who use wheelchairs may be able to make their own way down the stairs if they have a little mobility. If this is the preferred mode of escape, they should wait at the refuge point for the main flow of people to leave the building.

### **Make own way up stairs slowly**

Some people who use wheelchairs may be able to make their own way up the stairs if they have a little mobility. If this is the preferred mode of escape, they should wait at the refuge point for the main flow of people to leave the building.

### **Move downstairs on bottom after main flow**

Some people may prefer to make their own way out by shuffling down the stairs on their bottom. If this is the preferred mode of escape, they should wait at the refuge point for the main flow of people to leave the building.

### **Move downstairs in own chair with support**

Some wheelchair users may be able to tip their chair on its axis and travel down the stairs this way. Others may be able to do this with assistance. The main escape stairs are wide and regularly spaced with handrails. The escape should only take place after the main flow of people has left the building; the refuge point should be used while this is taking place.

### **Move downstairs using handrails**

Some people will be able to make their own escape but will require the support of a handrail to negotiate the stairs. The main escape stairs are wide and regularly spaced with handrails. The escape

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should only take place after the main flow of people has left the building; the refuge point should be used while this is taking place.

### **Platform or Wheelchair lifts**

There is a platform lift at the top of the atrium steps (ground floor level).

### **Cannot transfer readily**

Those who cannot transfer readily should contact the Facilities Manager in advance of accessing the building so that full consideration can be given to any potential health and safety issues and to any reasonable adjustments that might be necessary.

### **Evacuation Lift**

The lifts in Core A and B (these are the two main staircases) are designated evacuation and fire fighting lifts. In the event of an emergency, wheelchair users can make their way to the refuge points located in these stairwells for evacuation via the lifts.