

Issue 1

December 2009



LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Director of Estates Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

This newsletter is intended to be the first in a series setting the scene for the future direction of the Estates Division.

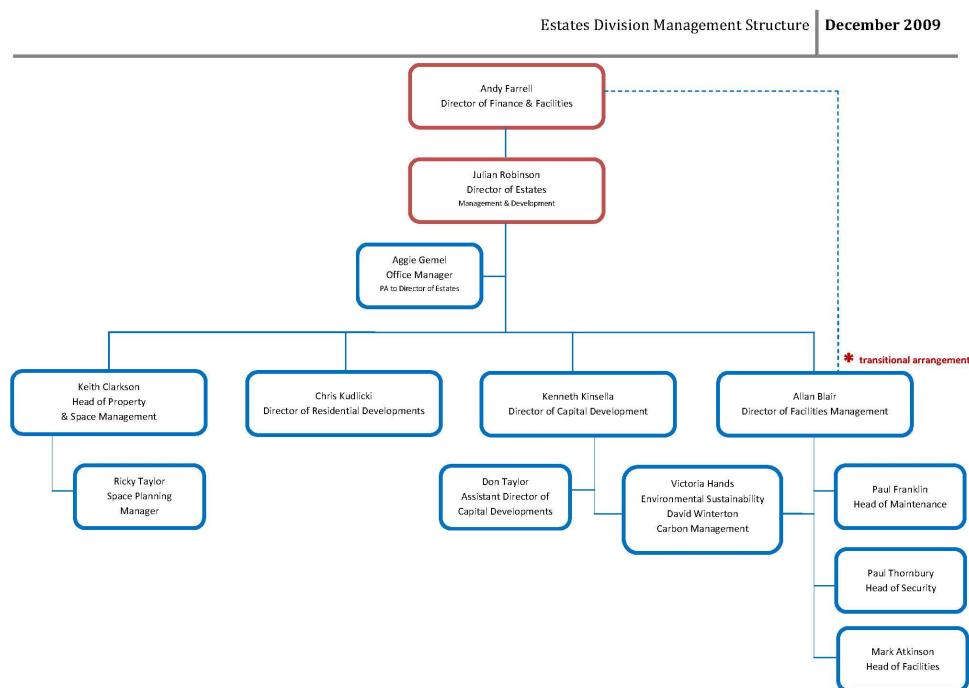
Being new to the post there is naturally a lot to cover so I have broken this down into a number of headings.

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Estates Division Structure & Organisation

This will essentially remain unchanged with the current sections being retained but supplemented by an additional Property & Space Management section headed up by Keith Clarkson. The responsibilities in the Estates Division Senior Management team (SMT) will be as follows:



For the first year of operation Alan Blair Director of Facilities Management will also have a direct reporting line to Andy Farrell Director of Finance & Facilities. This transitional arrangement will allow organisational and service delivery initiatives to continue to be a major focus and ensure a smooth handover in the future.

I am delighted to announce that Ken Kinsella has been appointed as Director of Capital Development and will work closely with me to deliver the biggest capital development programme in the School's history. We also welcome Chris Kudlicki back into the Estates fold as Director of Residential Developments.

And finally keeping us all on our toes, Aggie Gemel will combine the roles of PA to the Director of Estates and overall Office Manager.

I look forward to hopefully meeting many of you over the forthcoming year.

With best wishes for the Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely

A Bit About Me!

I've now been at the LSE for 4 ½ years and was originally brought in to project manage the development of the New Academic Building. Since then I have taken on responsibility for all capital development, long term maintenance and property and space management.

I hail from Salisbury in Wiltshire and came up to the smoke and bright lights to go to university. I hold post graduate qualifications in both Town Planning and Property Management.

I'm 47, have three children ages 21, 18 and 13 and an allotment where I go to escape! I've been a School Governor for 22 years. My first job was age 15 as a washer-up in a restaurant and I earned 60p an hour!

We have much to be proud of in what we do but we can always improve so it's worth noting what an old Greek boy said many moons ago.

"Excellence does not consist only in single activities but habits." Aristotle 340 BC



What Motivates Me?

Family and friends. Inspirational people whether in sports, politics, business or the community. Great architecture and design, most people's inherent goodness, tackling climate change, unfairness and inequality.

What Drives me to distraction?

Neglect, laziness, disregard for others, lack of 'can do' attitude. Small mindedness and petty bureaucracy. People who throw litter and politicians and parts of the press who jump on any bandwagon going.

Leader I would most like to emulate?

Capt. Richard Winters 'Band of Brothers'. A truly amazing man and inspirational leader.

Chris Higgins

The Division is indebted to Chris Higgins who took hold of the tiller at short notice when Chris Kudlicki had to step down due to ill health.

Chris H was instrumental in guiding us through some fairly 'choppy waters' and in the short time he was with us I know he also made an impact with you.

The turnout and warm sentiments expressed at his retirement were a fitting testament to his contribution to our Division.

Changes Coming

The Estates Division has had some notable successes whether in service delivery or capital development. This is of course mainly down to the quality of the staff. I am therefore not proposing any radical changes. We have had rather a lot of churn over the last few years and a period of consolidation and stability is now required. However, what I will concentrate on is as follows:

RE-FOCUSSING

on School priorities and delivery against targets

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

Termly Newsletter
Stakeholder engagement

CUSTOMER FRIENDLY WEBSITE

revamp project is under way

ANNUAL DIVISIONAL FORUM

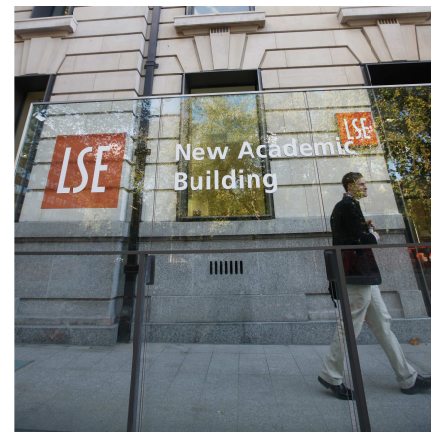
for all staff will be reinstated

OFFICE REORGANISATION

The DoE's old office becomes a meeting room and I will sit in the open plan

WORK EXPERIENCE

for the DoE in the different FM Sections



A Final Thought

We work for a world class institution and have the challenge of trying to ensure that our buildings, facilities and service delivery match this standing. One of the most obvious ways of doing this is for us all to take ownership of our estate and to have a pride in the way it presents itself to staff, students and the public. We need to ask ourselves – How can we make the estate better? And we must not 'walk on by when we see it is need of attention. It's all too easy for us to think – "that's someone else's job!". If something's not working or needs improving – report it or if you can, attend to it yourself.

If anyone has ideas about how we can improve our service please don't hesitate to come and see me or drop me an email j.s.robinson@lse.ac.uk.

Future Challenges

We are fortunate to work for one of the few Universities with a healthy balance sheet and one which has continued to invest in people and a world class estate. However, whichever party wins the next election, it is clear there will be less resources available in the future. In essence we will have to do 'more for less'.



We also have the twin challenges of radically reducing our carbon emissions and redeveloping and renewing

a significant proportion of the estate.