



The decision I made was not to give the police my name. Maybe it was naive, maybe it was stupid, and it was probably mostly stubborn



I was arrested, for not giving my name, I spent 28 horrible hours in a cell not counting the 4 hours between my actual arrest and my arrival in my temporary home. I got released to find my bail conditions essentially banning me from doing anything: from going on campus, to seeing my friends, going to any parties or even sport matches, and to forcing me to sleep at my own house every single night.



Not only this but the Guild of Students, my student union, have added to my problems. The Guild president Poppy Wilkison put out a statement regarding the demonstration. At the time it was written and published I was being kettled along with 150 other students. The statement claims that the protest had a "negative impact" on students as a result of it disrupting the "Give it a Go Fair", and that the Guild did "not condone the action taken". But there was no condemnation of students being kettled for 4 hours in the cold and rain. And there was no criticism of the police for using illegal tactics and wrongfully arresting students. And where was the outrage that student protestors were refused water, food or access to toilets?



When I was released, not only did I find out about the Guild's attack on me, my draconian bail conditions, and my suspensions from the university, but I also found myself banned from my own student union elections. This has left me with no opportunity to run for the position of Vice President Education; something which I had been looking forward to, been preparing for, and into which I had invested considerable time.

poppy wilkison is running for block of 15.

I believe the University's reaction to the 29th Jan, and the suspensions specifically, have to be seen in the wider context of harassment used by university managers against protesters. They constantly try to single out students who do not fit their agenda, put them through disciplinary procedures, threaten them with expulsion, and generally try to intimidate them as much as possible.

my message is #donotbetraystudents