

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas, with regard to proposed cuts affecting academic staff at the University of Manchester as reported in the press (for instance, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/jun/05/manchester-university-job-cuts-professors-sign-letter-no-confidence>) and relayed to us by members and others in the archaeology sector.

It has been suggested that these proposals include a proposal to reduce the academic staff of the Archaeology Department from 8 to 4 posts (following on from the loss of 3 members of professorial staff in 2016 as a result of an internal review). The Institute (along with other bodies in the sector) has grave concerns about such reports which, if true, must call into doubt the future of a long-established and highly-regarded Department.

Before making further comment might I please ask you to clarify the proposals insofar as they affect the Archaeology Department and confirm whether the reports which we have received are correct. If so it would also be helpful to explain:

- what consultation there has been thus far with the Senate, members of staff and other stakeholders
- what further consultation is planned
- whether there is a business plan underpinning such changes and, if so, whether that plan has been published
- whether a risk assessment of the effects of the proposals has been undertaken and, if so, whether it has been published
- how the proposed cuts in relation to archaeology would improve 'the student experience and the quality of research output'
- how the University will ensure adequate supervision for undergraduate and post-graduate students in the Archaeology Department

Once this information is available we would wish to make further representations as appropriate and seek your confirmation that no final decision will be made in relation to these proposals before we have the opportunity to do so.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Best wishes,

Tim Howard

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