

**University House Roof Project – Appendix 3**  
**Feedback from Colleagues affected by Phase 1 Decant.**

“Overall I found the Elms House accommodation to be good, and the move of equipment handled very professionally. However, the limitations of an open plan office environment were also evident, particularly when conducting student reviews and appraisals.”

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“My experiences have generally been very positive. Moving was smoothly handled, and the decant space is good for working unless you need some peace and quiet for writing/thinking. The other downside is the difficulty of having impromptu meetings, but otherwise things worked well.”

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“Yes, thanks for your efforts, Kirsty. You have made it much easier to get through a less than ideal situation.

- Moving-in back in Dec/Jan: Very efficient
- Usefulness of space / Overall experience: Of course it has been better than nothing during the roof work, but it is what it is – a stop-gap. Being on a different site has been inconvenient, going back and forth to meet students, etc. Not having constant access to the contents of my office, ditto. But, mainly, open plan just doesn't suit academic work. This is partly privacy for student meetings, but also, at the risk of sounding precious, many aspects of our work, e.g. writing articles, proofing articles, developing teaching materials, marking scripts, etc., are not really amenable to open plan working. I already knew this, having worked in open plan as a researcher in the 90s – I was reduced to spending most of the time working at home during that time.

Having said that, working around colleagues these last few months has made me realise that there is a desperate need for a permanent senior common room so staff can interact more. Indeed, given that our thoughts are being requested, I will offer an idea. Move the post boxes to a bigger room and have a joint post / common room, with coffee machine in it. Doesn't have to be a massive room, just enough for half a dozen chairs. Existing post room could become a small office. This is more important than it seems – more contact between academics can lead to more collaborations, better staff cohesion, etc.

Thanks again for what must be a trying time for you.”

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“The process was fantastic – very easy, and everything down here works very well – printing, coffee, telephone etc. So all managed very well, thanks.

The space itself has suited me really well too – I've enjoyed spending time with colleagues and it has facilitated some really good conversations. Since I'm in an admin period right now, that's really worked for me – when I'm in a research orientation, it'll work better, because sometimes it's a bit busy down here (though many colleagues don't spend a lot of time here, so I infer they're less happy with the space as a working environment). “

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“Process, helpfulness of you and colleagues, etc: first rate.

Space itself: the continued failure of one set of lights was a real irritation. Why have the maintenance people given up efforts at a resolution?

Overall: the obvious unavoidable irritations re meeting students etc have been worse than expected because of the time involved. But the encouragement to talk to colleagues has been an unexpected boon."

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"Personally, I have enjoyed being in elm house and I think that you did a very good job."