



Closure of Hydrogeology MSc, Birmingham University

**Letter to Professor Sir David Eastwood,
Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham University,
from the Committee of the Geological Society's
Hydrogeological Group**

2nd December 2015

The Hydrogeological Group represents all hydrogeologists in the Geological Society, as well as the wider interests of hydrogeology in the UK. We are greatly concerned by the proposed disinvestment in hydrogeology at Birmingham University.

A number of our committee members, along with many of the hydrogeologists in the society, received their training through the Hydrogeology MSc course at Birmingham University. Since its inception in the early seventies under the inspiration of Prof. John Lloyd, the course has provided the training for hydrogeologists, both UK and international, who now make a substantial contribution to the development and protection of groundwater, a vital water resource as well as a major contributor to the ecosystem services provided by our rivers and wetlands.

With the Government's recognition of a shortage of hydrogeologists in the UK and in view of its importance, contribution and worldwide reputation, we view the decision by the University to close the Hydrogeology MSc course as one that will do a great long-term disservice to the UK water industry and our aquatic environment. Furthermore, we are very concerned about the University's decision to "disinvest" from hydrogeological research, given the important contribution the group at Birmingham has made to further our understanding of the subsurface, how it can be monitored and its impact on water resources and the environment.

We therefore urge those involved in this decision to reconsider in order to ensure that we have a new generation of properly trained hydrogeologists at masters and doctoral level able to tackle the major hydrogeological and environmental challenges our society faces over the coming decades.

Signed:

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cc. Professor Myra Nimmo, Head of College of Life and Environmental Sciences and Pro-Vice-Chancellor