Sequence of important events during the intervention of the Police Force of the Czech Republic at the Carolinum on 21 December 2023 (Ovocný trh 5, Celetná 20) based on the findings of the Central Crisis Staff of Charles University on 4 January 2024

EVENTS DURING THE INTERVENTION OF THE CZECH POLICE

Prior to the police intervention, a normal working and teaching day was underway in the Carolinum.

Security agency – at about 14:00 the police (SRU – special riot unit) arrived at the porter's lodges of the buildings, saying that they are looking for a specific person. The porter's lodges provided the police with the requested information. At 14:05 the security agency informed the director of CU Facility Management about the presence of the Police Force of the Czech Republic on the premises. Police intervention ended at 15:50. Extract of the entry from the security agency log below.

Director of CU Facility Management (CU FM) – at approximately 14:05, the security agency informed me about the presence of the Police Force of the Czech Republic on the premises. When asked what was going on, the police said they were looking for a suspect and that they didn't need anything else. At approximately 14:55 the Bursar asked me to evacuate Celetná 20. This was overseen by members of CU FM staff.

Employee 1 – at approx. 14:30, two plainclothes police officers came to the office on the fourth floor in the building of the Charles University Rector's Office. They asked for me by name, asked to see my ID, and then showed me a photo of a student (probably taken from the SIS) on their phone and asked me if I knew him. I told him that I did not. Then they asked me if everything was all right where we were. I said yes and they left. Then I left the office. Nothing was happening in the corridor. I then called the Chancellor at 14:45. She told me that she didn't know anything, but that people were writing to her to say that the police were in Celetná, and that I should call the Bursar with this information.

Chancellor (on holiday at the time) – at 14:45 I called the Bursar to tell him about the police at Ovocný trh 5 and Celetná 20. At 15:02 I called my colleague Jindra (i.e. member of the Rector's Board for eGoverment and Security), but he was unavailable. Information about the attack on the Faculty of Arts of Charles University then appeared in the media, so at 15:27 I called the dean of the CU Faculty of Arts and passed on to her the phone number of the head of the Security Department of the Rectorate. At 15:33 I called Otomar Sláma.
Bursar — at 14:50 I went to the porter’s lodge of Ovocný trh 5, where the police were. I asked them what they were doing there. One of the three officers present informed me that they were looking for a student of Charles University and that a dangerous situation may arise. When asked for clarification, the police refused to give specific information about the event in question. During the discussion with the police, I asked about a possible evacuation, and the police replied that they recommended it. At 14:52, Employee 1 called me to inform me that the police were in the Carolinum. At that time, I was already at the porter’s lodge and communicating with the police. I ordered the evacuation of Celetná 20 through the CU FM director at approx. 14:55. During subsequent discussion with the police, at about 14:58, I asked if they had informed the security department of the CU Rectorate; the answer was negative.

Jan Jindra — at 16:00 a meeting of the CU Central Crisis Staff (CU CCS) is called following agreement with selected members of CU management. The CU CCS met at 17:00. At 19:06 I was contacted by representatives of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and subsequently, following a request by the Minister of Education, I was contacted at 19:15 by Gen. Matějček, who arrived at the meeting of the CU CCS at 19:28. Here, the CU CCS received confirmation of some previous information from the police.

Dean of the CU Faculty of Arts — at 15:32 I called the head of the Security Department of the CU Rectorate (on holiday at the time) and informed him about the active gunman at the faculty. He received the information, told me that we had given members of staff the correct instructions, that is, to lock and barricade themselves in their rooms and to stay away from windows so that they could not be seen. I was also advised to comply fully with police instructions and to establish contact and cooperation with the police commander. In the meantime, I spoke with several members of University management: the Chancellor, Otomar Sláma and the Vice-Rector for External Relations Martin Vlach. During the first meeting of the CU CCS, which I joined online from the Rudolfinum just after 17:00, I reached the mobile police command group, which was standing in front of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, at about 17:45. However, nothing specific was communicated to me. I was given the number of the spokesperson of the Police Force of the Czech Republic and left contact details for myself and Mr. Jan Jindra. I asked the police to enter into communication with the CU CCS, which was meeting at that time. Subsequently, I went to deal with the situation, and in particular to e-mail students and members of staff as quickly as I could so that the academic community could be informed as soon as possible. Then a police spokesperson called me, and I told him the same thing that I had said to the mobile command group.