



11 December 2018

By email to: [request-537609-eb50791d@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-537609-eb50791d@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Ms Card,

I refer to your Freedom of Information request received on 7 December 2018 about student mental health services.

Details of any exemptions applied are below. Where any information is “not held”, this is explained below. Those parts of the University’s response (together with the details of how to ask the University to review the management of your request, or thereafter to seek a review by the Scottish Information Commissioner, should you wish to do so – please see below) constitutes the notice in writing that the information specified is not held by the University which is required under section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (“FOISA”).

Your enquiry and the University’s response.

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information in regards to the mental health resources at your university.

1. How many support service staff have been employed with a mental health remit (e.g. counselling, wellbeing) in each of the last 5 academic years. If a breakdown is not available for mental health staff, please provide a total for the closest possible category.

The Counselling & Mental Health Service provides general counselling for all students impacted by anxiety, depression, bereavement, self-harm, stress, trauma, etc. The Service’s staff resource is 5 counsellors (3 work term-time only). This works out at 1.8 Full Time Equivalent (i.e. permanent staff equivalent, to take account of part-time engagement). All staff are professionally qualified and are members of their professional bodies, for example, British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapists, Nursing & Midwifery Council, etc.

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
1.8 FTE	1.8 FTE	1.8 FTE	1.8 FTE	1.8 FTE

In addition, the University also employs a Mental Health Adviser (0.8FTE). If there are any concerns as to a student’s mental health, these are referred to the University’s Mental Health Adviser, who was appointed in September 2014.

2. Budget for mental health support for each of the last 5 academic years, and where possible a breakdown on how that money is allocated, e.g. staff, marketing, equipment etc.

The funding for the Counselling & Mental Health Service, which is a combined service, is presented in the table below (based on the salary spend for student-facing counselling and mental health staff).

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
£82,199.67	£61,246.94	£91,935	£98,808	£112,152

3. Number of students seeking mental health support in each of the last 5 academic years.

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
334	351	356	369	400

4. Average waiting time for mental health support in each of the last 5 academic years.

The average waiting time (in days) for a student to attend their initial counselling session is detailed in the table below.

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Average waiting time (days)	7	10.7	9.2	10.6	10.3

5. Any internal reports or reviews relating to mental health provision over the last 5 years.

Information not held: there are no internal reports or reviews relating to mental health provision.

This concludes the University's response.

Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with our response or our reasoning set out above, you have 40 working days in which to require a review of our decision. Any such request should be put in writing and should be sent to the University Secretary, Abertay University, at the address provided below. The request should:

- (a) detail your request for a review of our decision to be undertaken
- (b) describe the nature of your original request
- (c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response

University Secretary  
 Abertay University  
 Bell Street  
 Dundee  
 DD1 1HD  
 Tel (01382) 308016

E-mail: [S.Stewart@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:S.Stewart@abertay.ac.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with, you also have the right, in terms of section 47 of FOISA, and within 6 months, to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether we have handled your request properly.

Information relating to your right to seek review is available from the Scottish Information Commissioner's website:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info>

or by contacting the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Scottish Information Commissioner,  
Kinburn Castle,  
Doubledykes Road, St Andrews,  
Fife KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

E-mail: <mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info>

Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info>

Or via the SIC's online appeals service:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

If you are unhappy with the Commissioner's decision, you also have the right to appeal further to the Court of Session, on a point of law only, under section 56 of FOISA. Please refer to the Commissioner's website (details above) for further information about your right of appeal to the Court of Session.

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Processing*

Academic Registry  
Abertay University

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