

Dear Gillian,

Reference Number: **RI1821**.



Cardiff
Metropolitan
University

Prifysgol
Metropolitan
Caerdydd

Thank you for your request for information (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

Please find the answers to your questions below:

Following a spate of sudden student deaths in 2018, an 'opt-in scheme' was pioneered by the University of Bristol as part of a set of measures aimed at preventing suicide. In 2019, a coroner wrote to the Department for Education and Minister for Suicide Prevention suggesting that these measures might be shared throughout the sector. I am now seeking to establish the extent to which 'opt-in' has been subsequently adopted and/or utilised.

The 'opt-in' or 'consent at registration' scheme implemented by Bristol University comprises an additional personal information sharing agreement that supplements when information might be shared. It gains consent at annual registration for the university to contact a 'safe and nominated' parent, guardian or friend in situations that are not emergencies, but where staff have serious concerns that something bad might happen to an enrolled student, and/or where their health, wellbeing or welfare could be affected. Essentially it involves lowering the bar at which parents or nominated others could be contacted by a designated professional at the university, from 'vital interests' to 'serious or significant concerns'. It could for example apply in cases of trauma or distress associated with suspension / expulsion / non-attendance / mental health issues etc.

To qualify as 'opt-in' a scheme must be optional and additional to the regular emergency contact protocol. The latter is compulsory and typically restricted to serious incidents and/or emergency situations, that may present an imminent threat to a student's vital interests. Further particulars can be found at:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/contacting-people/parent/>

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthetab.com%2Fuk%2F2018%2F09%2F20%2Fthese-are-the-unis-with-policies-to-tell-parents-if-students-are-suicidal-81552&data=04%7C01%7CFreedomofInfo%40cardiffmet.ac.uk%7Ca3425493df4746b93f4308d8e2fa0592%7C189dc61c769b40488b0f6de074bba26c%7C0%7C0%7C637508910816383824%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikh1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=EgmSn2OKLCBMSZITzhNTyNqQfAQ0AiUvdO1c%2F54U%2B34%3D&reserved=0>

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthetab.com%2Fuk%2Fbristol%2F2019%2F10%2F31%2F93-of-new-bristol-students-opt-in-to-mental-health-scheme-37916&data=04%7C01%7CFreedomofInfo%40cardiffmet.ac.uk%7Ca3425493df4746b93f4308d8e2fa0592%7C189dc61c769b40488b0f6de074bba26c%7C0%7C0%7C637508910816383824%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikh1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=HqSuiFMnrNm47nAbnGLWnD7ZQ96Kaww13H1sRTtU1D4%3D&reserved=0>

This important scheme has been implemented at several universities, and perhaps at your institution as well. If so, please provide me with the following information as absolute numbers and percentages.

Cardiff Metropolitan University has not implemented this scheme.

For each academic period (2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21) and year-of-study (e.g. 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year) sub-division:

- **How many students opted-in at registration?**

Non-applicable

- **How many students subsequently rescinded their consent?**

Non-applicable

- **How many times was the opt-in consent used to contact somebody?**

Non-applicable

- **How many times was use of the opt-in consent considered, but with you deliberately choosing not to contact a parent or nominated individual?**

Non-applicable

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been dealt with or with the outcome of the consideration given to your request, you may ask for an Internal Review. If you are not content with the outcome of the Internal Review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Our procedure for carrying out Internal Reviews can be found under the 'Complaint' section of [this document](#).

If you have any queries about this response or would like any further information about your request, or the Freedom of Information Act in general, please do not hesitate to contact us again by e-mail (freedomofinfo@cardiffmet.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Esther Steele

Governance and Compliance Advisor / Ymgynghorydd Llywodraethu a Chydymffurfiaeth

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Mae Met Caerdydd yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

Cardiff Met welcomes correspondence in English and Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

