

Our Reference: FOI/2013/1/9
Your Ref:

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Legal Services

Juhi Sharma
What do they know

Director
Mrs C M E Pike LLB
Solicitor

(By Email)

4 February 2013

Dear Juhi Sharma

Re: request for information under The Freedom of Information Act.

Further to your request for information dated 7th January 2013 please find attached the University of Birmingham's response.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask for an internal review. A copy of the Complaints and Appeals procedure is attached. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have a right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Please note our statement in respect of Copyright, which is also attached.

If you have any queries with regard to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University of Birmingham

Encs

Your request for information read:

I would like to know some specific details about the Dementia Teaching and Training delivered to medical students, in your Medical University. Specifically, I would like to know the format, the time spent and where the placements are. I would like the data pertaining to the current (or if you do not have these statistics yet, then the most recent) intake.

I would appreciate it if this data was available in Word excel sheet, if possible.

The University of Birmingham responds:

The University of Birmingham is required to respond to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, if it holds the information being requested and it is not appropriate to apply one of the limited exemptions.

Below is detailed training about dementia that students receive, additional information can be found in the attached Vignettes and Psychiatry Rotation Programme.

Didactic Teaching

Students receive didactic teaching on the subject in years 1, 2 & 3 as follows.

1. The first year module, "People, Places and Population", dementia is mentioned in two sessions entitled:

Confidentiality
Truth Telling.

2. Brain and behaviour is a second year module. Dementias in general are mentioned in two lectures entitled:

Neurobiology of Memory
Ageing of the central nervous system

Vascular dementia is referred to in an anatomy small group teaching session focussing on cerebral vasculature.

There is a mental health element in the year 2 "Decision Making" module which covers general issues around memory loss, and dementia is also discussed in one session: "Who is Worthy of Moral Concern". Dementia will also be used as examples during consent and capacity teaching

3. Year 3 students attend a neurology teaching programme over a 5 week period. Part of this teaching includes topics such as neurodegenerative diseases and differential diagnosis. There is also a Trust-based lecture given to all third year students. Below are the bullet point guidelines we give to Trusts about what to cover.

Elderly patients: history-taking and examination

- Properties of acute illness in old age
- Atypical presentation of disease in old age
- Clinical method in the elderly - major requirements
- Pitfalls in history taking in the elderly
- Developing a structured approach to assessment in the elderly

Clinical Placements

The University of Birmingham is in an unique position being situated within easy travelling distance of 15 different hospitals that provide teaching for medical students. It should be understood that each student journey will therefore vary slightly, but all students will be exposed to a broad range of medical conditions. The breadth of placements each student undertakes will ensure that students will have had an equitable experience in order to have met all of the programme requirements by the end of the course.

All students undertake placements in Community Based Medicine (GP surgeries) from year 1 of both the MBChB and Graduate Entry Courses. As the majority of mental health care is undertaken in the community, it is extremely likely that students will meet members of the public who suffer with dementia during the course of these GP placements.

The number teaching sessions are as follows:

Year 1	10 days
Year 2	10 days
Year 3	10 days
Year 4	10 days

Hospital placements start in year 3 of the course (year 2 for graduate entry programme). The preponderance of the elderly amongst in patients in general wards and the frequency of dementia as a co-morbidity amongst elderly patients admitted for a range of other conditions means that students will frequently interact with patients with dementia in hospital. Students will be therefore meet patients with dementia in two, 11 week long, hospital rotations in year 3: in the 18 week long specialty medicine rotation in year 4 and in the 15 week long Ill Patient rotation in year 5.

Management of dementias is also dealt with as part of the clinical psychiatry teaching (see below)

There is a learning outcome within in the year 4 Specialty Medicine Elderly component which states that students should be able to competently undertake cognitive assessment of patients using standard assessment tools, demonstrating understanding of dementias, delirium and depression. In addition, the progress log and handbook for this component expects that students to be able to see/identify patients with these presentations and be able to describe the aetiology, pathophysiology, examinations, investigations, differential diagnoses, treatment, and management for them.

During the 9 week long psychiatry and neurology module students receive a lecture in old age psychiatry—attached is a copy of the teaching programme with the highlighted lecture. Students also have small group tutorials using a number of standardised vignettes (copy attached, old age psychiatry is case vignette 7).

Whilst on placements, students have approximately 3.5 days per week, (over 8 weeks) with general adult psychiatrists who share time with their old age psychiatry colleagues where possible. Placements in the RAID* liaison psychiatry teams (QE, City, Heartlands) are predominantly in old age psychiatry. The consultant responsible for Old Age Psychiatry, offers clinic time to students at the Juniper Centre in Moseley, which students attend during their placement.

*RAID Rapid Assessment, Interface and Discharge team - provides a gateway to mental health services via A&E

University of Birmingham

Freedom of Information

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

Complaints and Appeals against a Refusal Notice issued in response to a request for information must be made in writing to the University's Information Compliance Manager (address given below). Complaints in respect of the University's Publication Scheme can be made in the same way.

Complaints and Appeals will be acknowledged within five (5) working days of receipt. The Information Compliance Manager will then refer the matter to the University's Director of Legal Services or nominee for consideration. If the Director of Legal Services was involved in responding to the request at the first stage, then the University's Registrar & Secretary or nominee will be asked to investigate the matter.

The Director of Legal Services or the Registrar & Secretary as appropriate may, after having sought further information from the members of staff involved in dealing with the original request, seek to resolve the issue on the basis of the documentation submitted. Where the Director of Legal Services or the Registrar & Secretary requires further clarification, he/she may decide to meet with the members of staff involved in dealing with the original request.

A full response to the complaint will normally be sent direct to the Complainant(s) within fifteen (15) working days, or in the case of a complex review, especially when the public interest test is involved, within thirty (30) working days.

If, having received this response, the Complainant(s) remains dissatisfied, s/he may make an appeal to the Information Commissioner at the address below.

Addresses for Correspondence

Information Compliance Manager
Legal Services
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT

Or: foi@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK95AF

The University of Birmingham

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