



Our Ref: FOI 19/134

29 July 2019

Poppy Damon
request-586685-f8d67da1@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Poppy

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 3rd July 2019

Under the FOIA you made the following request to the University:

Your Request

I am e-mailing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you have any questions or need clarification to complete my request, I would be grateful if you could contact me prior to the deadline of 20 working days from receiving my request.

I'm looking for information regarding the bereavement services which are available in your university or college. Please could you answer the following:

Do you offer special provisions for counselling services for students specific to bereavement? Y/N

Do you offer any support or counselling services for students? Y/N

Do you have an institution wide policy/guidance regarding caring for students following a bereavement? Y/N

Do your policies or practices exclusively relate to support for students who have lost parents or does your support factor in other forms of bereavement, such as losing a sibling?

Can you tell me what special provision you have for offering extensions and academic breaks in study after a bereavement?

How much money did you allocate to counselling and support services for bereavement per year (Jan 2016-Jan 2019)?

If you feel you would like to offer an opinion, would you say your institution feels you are offered enough from the Government in order to support students who have experienced bereavement while studying?

LJMU Response

No, we do not offer specialist bereavement counselling. Generalist counselling can be offered by our "in-house" team and support obtained from external agencies if required.

LJMU Students who are having any problems can access the Counselling Service which will look at problems of a personal and emotional nature. The Service offers an opportunity for students to talk about their concerns or share their problems with a trained counsellor. The counselling team offer a free, confidential, one-to-one service to all LJMU students.

We do not have a policy directly related to bereavement. Treatment of Students who have experienced a bereavement should refer to the following policies:

- Student Attendance Policy
- Student Handbook
- Critical Incident Policy (students)

None of the above policies are specific about the nature of a bereavement experienced by a student.

Provision for offering extensions and academic breaks in study after a bereavement can be found in the following policies:

- [Student Attendance Policy 2018/19](#)
- [Student Handbook](#)

We do not collect data for our Counselling and Support Services in a way that would allow us to identify money spent on offering support services for bereavement support. The budget for our Counselling Service is not costed to particular types of support offered, as our full time team are available to help in all circumstances.

The University considers it has fully complied with your request, but if you wish to seek an internal review, you should do so in writing to Professor Robin Leatherbarrow, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Scholarship, Research and Knowledge Transfer), Liverpool John Moores University, Egerton Court, 2 Rodney Street, Liverpool, L1 2UA or by email at R.J.L Leatherbarrow@ljmu.ac.uk

Once having appealed, if you are still not satisfied with our response, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has not been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of Part I of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner's address is: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Details on how to complain can be found on the Information Commissioner's website: www.ico.org.uk

If you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Simon Horsfield
Information Officer (Governance and Compliance)