



10 July 2019

By email to: request-586865-41320b7b@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Poppy Damon

I refer to your Freedom of Information request received on 3 July 2019 about bereavement 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’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?

Yes. The Counselling & Mental Health Service & Advisory service support those who have bereaved

Do you offer any support or counselling services for students?

Yes. We offer advice and one-to-one counselling. A number of our counsellors are trained in bereavement issues. We offer admission to an educational peer based programme called Seasons of Grief. The programme aims to build resilience and bring hope and confidence to adults who have experienced significant change or loss. We also offer a peer mentor system.

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

Information not held. The University does not have an institution-wide policy specific to those students who have been bereaved.

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?

Information not held. See above. The University does not have an institution-wide policy specific to those students who have been bereaved.

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

The University operates a mitigating circumstance policy, a copy of which is attached to this response.

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

Information not held – spend on counselling and support services for students is not broken down into specific categories. The amount spent by the University for the combined Counselling & Mental Health Services for the time period requested was as follows:

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
£91,935	£98,808	£112,152

Figures for 2018/2019 are not yet available

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?

The University has no comment to make on this matter.

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

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

Abertay University is a registered Scottish charity, no. SC016040