

Poppy Damon  
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24 July 2019

Ref: FoI Request 130-190704

Dear Ms Damon,

### **Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Please find below the University of Bradford's response to your request for information dated 3 July 2019.

#### **Your request**

1. Do you offer special provisions for counselling services for students specific to bereavement? Y/N
2. Do you offer any support or counselling services for students? Y/N
3. Do you have an institution wide policy/guidance regarding caring for students following a bereavement? Y/N
4. 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?
5. Can you tell me what special provision you have for offering extensions and academic breaks in study after a bereavement?
6. How much money did you allocate to counselling and support services for bereavement per year (Jan 2016-Jan 2019)?
7. 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?

#### **Our Response**

***Do you offer special provisions for counselling services for students specific to bereavement?***

No: this is one of many issues of student support offers.

***Do you offer any support or counselling services for students?***

Yes

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

All staff and students are made aware of the support that is offered by the counselling service and how to refer if needed following a bereavement. The counselling service provides consultative advice and guidance to all staff with regards to student emotional

wellbeing. The service also liaises with all internal student support services as well as with external support services (for example Cruse Bereavement Care) as appropriate. There are University guidelines for response to a student death.

***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?***

The Counselling Service policies and practices factor in all forms of bereavement.

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

There is no special provision but bereavement is included as the first in the list of examples of extenuating circumstances in the University's Extenuating Circumstances Policy and Procedure.

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

There is no specific budget allocated for bereavement counselling and support. Any students or staff requiring bereavement support could contact a number of different support services within the University, such as the Counselling Service, Student Support Service and Wellbeing Service etc. All these services have budgets that cover a large number of areas and any required support would come from within these budgets.

***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?***

It is unclear what type of support to which you are referring. The University receives very little financial support from the Government in any case so it is unlikely that specific funding would be provided to specifically students experiencing bereavement.

If you are unhappy with the University processing of your request or the response you have received, you may request an internal review. Please contact the Legal and Governance Team at [foi@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:foi@bradford.ac.uk) within two months if you wish to request an internal review. The University will undertake an internal review and will usually inform you of the outcome of this review within 20 working days.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at: The Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

*J Giddings*

Information Governance Officer