



Freedom of Information: Bereavement Support

Dear Poppy

Thank you for your request for information concerning the support available for students after bereavement.

Your 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?

Our Response

1. Yes, all University Counsellors offer bereavement counselling within their skill set.
2. Yes, the University offers support and counselling for students.
3. No, the University does not have a policy regarding caring for students following bereavement.
4. No, the University's counselling services encompass a wide range of student needs.
5. The University has an extenuating circumstances procedure for exams and coursework (link below). Both self-certification and evidence-based application cite 'recent bereavement' as an acceptable reason.

<https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/faqs/current-students/academic-services/updating-your-status/Registry-What-are-acceptable-reasons-to-apply-for-an-Extenuating-Circumstance.aspx>

6. The information is not held. The information is not held because the University does not isolate spend specifically attributable to bereavement counselling and support.

I trust this addressed your enquiry.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request me to reconsider the decisions made and I will respond.

In addition, I might be in a position to provide advice and assistance in relation to your request with a view to providing the information you are seeking.

If you continue to remain dissatisfied, you will have the opportunity to make a request for an internal review of the decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Robert Melville
Assistant University Secretary

31/07/2019