

18 October 2021

John Gallacher

[request-799822-ec8b9491@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-799822-ec8b9491@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear John,

**Your Information Request  
Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (“FOISA”)**

I refer to the email of 13 October 2021 in which you requested:

- 1. Please provide details of the amount of additional funding allocated to you by Scottish Funding Council for Mental Health in Colleges for AY 21-22. For the avoidance of doubt, I am referring to the funding provided which was supplementary to the college’s core funds.*
- 2. Please advise what proportion of these funds will be spent or is proposed to be spent on Support Staff/Lecturing Staff/Students. Please provide separate figures for each.*
- 3. Please advise how the additional funds will be spent or are proposed to be spent on each separate group.*
- 4. Please advise whether the recognised trade unions were consulted before submission of the document or on any subsequent decisions taken?*

I have treated your request as a request for information under section 1 of FOISA. An application for information under section 1 of FOISA requires that a public authority releases all information held, subject to any applicable exemptions. Under FOISA, public authorities have twenty working days following the date of receipt of the request to respond to an applicant. The deadline for receipt of the response to your request is therefore 10 November 2021.

I can confirm that the information you requested is held by the College. After considering your request I have decided that no exemptions apply and I am disclosing in full the information requested. Please find enclosed copies of the information requested.

## **Right to request a review under FOISA**

You have a right under FOISA to request a review of this decision. If you wish to exercise this right, you must write to us to request a review within forty working days of receipt of this decision. Your request for a review must be in writing and you must state your name and an address for correspondence. You must also specify your reasons for requesting a review. Should you wish to request a review, please address your request to Natalie Smith, West College Scotland, Clydebank Campus, Queens Quay, Clydebank G81 1BF, [natalie.smith@wcs.ac.uk](mailto:natalie.smith@wcs.ac.uk)

Your review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision-making process.

## **Right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner under FOISA**

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of a review, you have a right under section 47 of FOISA to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. If you wish to do so, you must apply to the Commissioner within six months following the date of receipt of the review notice. The Commissioner's contact details are:

The Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS  
Email: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)  
Tel: 01334 464610

The Commissioner also has an online appeal portal which can be accessed at this link: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

## **Complaints**

Should you have any complaints about the College's procedure in respect of handling your request, please contact: Liz Connolly, Principal and Chief Executive, West College Scotland, Paisley Campus, Renfrew Road, Paisley, PA3 4DR.

Yours sincerely

*Natalie Smith*

**Natalie Smith**  
**Director Organisational Development and HR**

## West College Scotland Freedom of Information Response

1. Please provide details of the amount of additional funding allocated to you by Scottish Funding Council for Mental Health in Colleges for AY 21-22. For the avoidance of doubt, I am referring to the funding provided which was supplementary to the college's core funds.

*Full details for all Colleges is available in this public document Annex A:*

[http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/announcements\\_sfc212021/Funding\\_for\\_Mental\\_Health\\_in\\_colleges\\_for\\_AY\\_2021-22.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/announcements_sfc212021/Funding_for_Mental_Health_in_colleges_for_AY_2021-22.pdf)

*West College Scotland has been allocated £402,782.*

2. Please advise what proportion of these funds will be spent or is proposed to be spent on Support Staff/Lecturing Staff/Students. Please provide separate figures for each.

*We don't differentiate our staff groups when it comes to providing support:*

*Staff: 39% = £155,000 estimate*

*Students: 61% = £247,000 estimate*

3. Please advise how the additional funds will be spent or are proposed to be spent on each separate group.

*For staff:*

- *Recruitment of a Wellbeing Advisor*
- *Development of CALM Curriculum - a mindfulness safety valve*
- *Build upon work with external agents to provide out of hours wellbeing support*
- *Access to a developed physical health programme of activity, training and eating well package*
- *Creation of internal and external wellbeing space*
- *Investment in digital tools that support staff and student wellbeing*

*For students:*

- *Recruitment of a Wellbeing Advisor*
- *Development of CALM Curriculum - a mindfulness safety valve*
- *Build upon work with external agents to provide out of hours wellbeing support*
- *Access to a developed physical health programme of activity, training and eating well package*
- *Creation of internal and external wellbeing space*
- *Mental health preservation, providing access to free breakfast and lunch for all students*
- *Investment in digital tools that support staff and student wellbeing*

4. Please advise whether the recognised trade unions were consulted before submission of the document or on any subsequent decisions taken?

*Yes, through the College Healthy Working Lives group consultation and ongoing development of the plans evolve. This group includes representation from all trade unions and the Students' Association.*