

Our Ref: FOI2021/145  
Maria Gallagher  
request-774942-dd00cea6@whatdotheyknow.com

Monday, 16 August 2021

Dear Maria Gallagher,

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Regarding your request for information received by the University of Westminster on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**The Request**

The University can confirm that it holds information relating to your request. Please see below for details of your recent request.

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request the following information about all instances of sexual misconduct reported by students at the University of Westminster from 2015/2016 until the end of the 2019/20 academic year inclusive.**

**I request information on the following:**

- **Whether the university has a specific policy for handling allegations of sexual misconduct**
- **Whether the university employs an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor**
- **The number of disclosures made by students (including student-on-student and staff-on-student sexual misconduct)**
- **The number of formal complaints made by students (including student-on-student and staff-on-student sexual misconduct)**

**Information Compliance Team**  
University of Westminster  
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London, W1T 3UW  
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E: [foi@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:foi@westminster.ac.uk)

- **Statistics of whether the perpetrator was a student or member of staff**
- **How many of these resulted in expulsion for the perpetrator**

## **The Response**

- Whether the university has a specific policy for handling allegations of sexual misconduct:

No. Our student code of conduct makes it clear that cases of sexual misconduct and sexual violence would be investigated under the student disciplinary regulations. A further review is taking place by the University on the effectiveness of the current regulations being used to investigate matters relating to sexual misconduct and sexual violence.

- **Whether the university employs an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor**

The University does not employ an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor, however we do employ sexual violence liaison officers (SVLOs)

- **The number of disclosures made by students (including student-on-student and staff-on-student sexual misconduct)**

The University's Report and Support system was put in to place in February 2020 therefore we can only provide details of informal disclosures for the 2019/20 Academic Year. Official complaints are recorded in the next question. Please note that these may also be included in the number of complaints below.

2019/20 – 3 cases of sexual misconduct recorded. All student-on-student

- **The number of formal complaints made by students (including student-on-student and staff-on-student sexual misconduct)**

2015/16 – 1 case student-on-student  
 2016/17 – No reports  
 2017/18 – 2 cases student-on-student  
 2018/19 – 4 cases student-on-student  
 2019/20 – 4 cases student-on-student

No cases reported of staff-on-student for any of the above years.

- **Statistics of whether the perpetrator was a student or member of staff**

In all of the instances above the perpetrator was a student

- **How many of these resulted in expulsion for the perpetrator**

2018/19 – 2 exclusions

2019/20 – 1 exclusion

We hope this information may be of use to you.

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If you are dissatisfied with this response you may ask the University to conduct a review of its decision.

**By Post:** Information Compliance Team  
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London, W1T 3UW

**By Telephone:** 0207 911 5158  
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Please do so in writing (including by fax, letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape), describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence.

If after contacting the University of Westminster you are not happy with the outcome, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed.

**By Post:** Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**By Telephone:** 01625 545 700  
**Web:** [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team  
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