



**By e-mail:** Tilda Coleman  
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Freedom of Information Office  
4 West  
University of Bath  
Claverton Down  
Bath  
BA2 7AY

18 December 2019

Dear Ms Coleman

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 2000 – 2019/339**

Your request was received on 19 November 2019 and was handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 and is copied below for your reference.

*'Under the Freedom of Information Act please could you provide me with some information about student mental health.'*

1. *Across the University, what was the number of students, broken down for each academic year between 2008-9 and 2018-19, who intermitted for specifically mental health issues?*
2. *Of these students who intermitted, how many each year returned to the University to resume their studies one year after intermitting?*
3. *Of these students who intermitted, how many each year never returned to the University to resume their studies?*
4. *Please could you also provide me with the number of students, broken down for each academic year between 2008- 9 and 2018- 19, who have accessed counselling services provided by the university.*
5. *If possible, please provide a breakdown of the types of issue the students are seeking help for'*

Section 1(1) usually entitles you to be told whether the requested information is held and have that information provided to you unless it is judged to be exempt from disclosure. We can confirm the following information.

Through the University Student Services, students are provided with a wide range and variety of support and advice including counselling and wellbeing.

The University provides campus-based mental health practitioners and counsellors and students may directly present to Student Services for individual appointments booked at the student's convenience. The University also offers other options including counselling by email and telephone, workshops, a preventative health and wellbeing programme and mental health support software for those students who may seek alternative modes of therapy.

See the following for details: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/advice-and-support-to-help-you-succeed/> and [www.bath.ac.uk/groups/counselling-mental-health/](http://www.bath.ac.uk/groups/counselling-mental-health/)

1. Withdrawal and suspension may be registered by students under health, personal or illness. As data is not disaggregated by physical or mental health the University does not hold student withdrawals or suspensions under a mental health category. The information is not held.
2. See Q1 as above.
3. See Q1 as above.
4. Mental health specific figures are not recorded. The figures below include the total number of students who applied for University-run Counselling and/or Mental Health services in the following years:

2008/09	-	311
2009/10	-	371
2010/11	-	474
2011/12	-	536
2012/13	-	674
2013/14	-	758
2014/15	-	898
2015/16	-	936
2016/17	-	1,089
2017/18	-	1,092
2018/19	-	1,136

The number of students enrolled at the University of Bath increased from 14,565 to 18,103 from 2010 – 2018. For more information about student numbers see:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/student-numbers/>

5. Students are not required to provide a reason for accessing the counselling service, and they See counsellors for a variety of reasons (not all relating to mental health). Many cases will have a substantial degree of cross-over, and/or, students may not present with a single issue.

In 2018/19 the Service commenced collecting some presentation information where possible, so some data is held for 2018/19, where the primary presenting issue was identified by the assessor and the student. The categories that the University captures are: anxiety and/or depression; eating disorders and drug and alcohol issues.

From 2018/19 student numbers presenting with these issues are as follows:

Eating Disorders: 29 students.

Stress, anxiety, depression: 403 students.

Drug or alcohol issues: 7 students.

Mental health issues not included above: 122 students.

Please note no students are counted twice within each group but a student can appear in e.g. anxiety group and other mental health issues too.

The Wellbeing Service also provide wellbeing and welfare advice and support to all students.

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/wellbeing-service/>

Disability Service also provide help and support for students with long term mental health conditions. <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/disability-service/>

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of how your request was handled you may ask the University to conduct an internal review. A request for an internal review must be submitted

within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response. Requests received outside this period will only be considered at the University's discretion and where there is a valid reason to do so.

Applications for internal review should be emailed to: The Freedom of Information Team, [freedom-of-information@bath.ac.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information@bath.ac.uk) or addressed in writing to University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7AY.

If you remain dissatisfied you may appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Further details of this process are available via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/> Please note that the Information Commissioner will only consider appeals once the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Bean', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D Bean  
Freedom of Information Officer