

**By Email:** [request-537611-31e4090f@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-537611-31e4090f@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our Ref: FOI 18 1218

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

Dear Ms Card,

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request and your interest in the University of Bedfordshire.

**Request**

You requested the following information from the University of Bedfordshire:

1. How many support service staff have been employed with a mental health remit (e.g. counselling, wellbeing) in each of the last 5 academic years. If a breakdown is not available for mental health staff, please provide a total for the closest possible category.
2. Budget for mental health support for each of the last 5 academic years, and where possible a breakdown on how that money is allocated, e.g. staff, marketing, equipment etc.
3. Number of students seeking mental health support in each of the last 5 academic years.
4. Average waiting time for mental health support in each of the last 5 academic years.
5. Any internal reports or reviews relating to mental health provision over the last 5 years.

**Response**

In response to question 1 please see the table below:

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
Mental Health Advisor (f/t)	1	1	1	1	1
Mental Health Support Worker (p/t)	1	1	1	1	1
Counsellors (p/t)	4	4	4	4	4

In response to question 2 the budget for mental health support sits within student Support and isn't allocated to specific teams.

In response to question 3 please see table below:

Year	Number of Students Supported by Mental Health team	Number of Students attending counselling appointments
2012/13	229	163
2013/14	228	176
2014/15	221	226
2015/16	229	236
2016/17	192	234
2017/18	177	209

In response to question 4 we do not keep data on waiting times for the Mental Health Team. The Mental Health Advisor/ Mental Health Support Worker support students with significant and complex mental health difficulties, those who become ill while they are at university and those who are in recovery. There is not usually a waiting list. Students who are deemed 'at risk' are seen as emergency appointments. Students normally do not wait longer than 2 weeks.

The data on waiting times has been collected for counsellors only in the following format, and this wasn't recorded prior to 2015/16:

	1-5 working days	6-10 working days	11+ working days	No information recorded
2015-2016	157	36	13	29
2016-2017	166	39	24	6
2017-2018	139	39	31	0

In response to question 5 we have annual reports but these are for internal use only and are not available in the public domain. There was a Periodic Review of Student Support in 2014 and a QAA 'inspection' in 2015.

If you are not satisfied by the way we have handled your request, you can request a review by writing to the Senior Legal Officer.

If you are unhappy with the way the University handles your request through our appeals process, you have a right to appeal to the information commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Tel 08456 306060 or 01625 545745 or alternatively visit their website at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,



**Alexandra Pavel**  
Data Protection Officer  
University of Bedfordshire