

Kirsty Card  
request-537658-9495de7d@whatdotheyknow.com

10 January 2019

Our ref: FOI 2018/318

Dear Ms Card,

**Request for Information under Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

Thank you for your email which was received by the University on 07 December 2018 requesting the following information:

- 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.**

**University's response**

**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.**

**2014/15**

**2.5 Student Counsellors**

Information Governance Unit, University of Strathclyde, Room 2.74,  
McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ  
Email: [foi@strath.ac.uk](mailto:foi@strath.ac.uk) Tel: 0141 548 5994

**The place of useful learning**

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263

**REF** UK TOP 20 RESEARCH-  
INTENSIVE UNIVERSITY

**THE** UK UNIVERSITY OF THE  
YEAR WINNER

**THE** UK ENTREPRENEURIAL  
UNIVERSITY OF THE  
YEAR WINNER

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>2015/16</b>    | 2.5 Student Counsellors  |
| <b>2016/17</b>    | 1.7 Student Counsellors  |
| <b>2017/18</b>    | 1.7 Student Counsellors  |
| <b>2018/19</b>    | 4.7 (Student Counsellors, Wellbeing Manager, Mental Health Adviser)  |
| <b>2018 (Nov)</b> | 8.5 (Student Counsellors, Wellbeing Manager, Mental Health Advisers) |

Please note the following:

- Until August 2018, additional temporary sessional counselling staff, which are not included in the figures and which varied on a year on year basis, supported the staff in permanent roles particularly during peak periods and including a bespoke summer service in 2015/16/17.
- Since January 2018 the University has made a significant increase in permanent staffing as the implementation of the new Wellbeing Service (within the Disability & Wellbeing Service) is progressed. As at 01 November 2018 the FTE is 8.5.

## **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.**

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| <b>2012-13</b> | £148,197 |
| <b>2013-14</b> | £190,769 |
| <b>2014-15</b> | £135,290 |
| <b>2015-16</b> | £139,650 |
| <b>2016-17</b> | £122,080 |
| <b>2017-18</b> | £194,976 |
| <b>2018-19</b> | £573,906 |

Mental health support for students is now integrated within our Disability and Wellbeing Service, which was introduced in January 2018. Please note that we have included the figure for the overall mental health support provision within the Wellbeing Service for 2018/19.

Our Disability Services Team also provides mental health support. The Student Wellbeing Service includes promotion and support for positive mental health, general health and wellbeing, student counselling and offers a diverse range of training programmes and workshops. The new staffing structure to support this new service has been fully operational since November 2018.

The University has made significant financial investment in this area enabling the full implementation of these developments drawn from the University's Student Mental Health Action Plan.

The introduction of this new service does not allow for an equitable comparison of service provision or for year on year comparison. The figures above represent expenditure for counselling only for the years requested up until January 2017.

Please also note that equipment and marketing costs are incorporated within the Disability and Wellbeing Service's equipment and running costs budgets; it is currently not possible to identify these costs for mental health support.

## **3. Number of students seeking mental health support in each of the last 5 academic years.**

The number of students seen by a counsellor for an intake appointment are as follows:

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| <b>2013-14</b> | 481 |
| <b>2014-15</b> | 622 |

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| <b>2015-16</b> | 567 |
| <b>2016-17</b> | 652 |
| <b>2017-18</b> | 683 |

Typically, the student would have access to up to 6 sessions with a counsellor, although this will vary dependent on student need. In addition to the one-to-one counselling appointments on offer, we also offer a range of group therapy sessions.

#### **4. Average waiting time for mental health support in each of the last 5 academic years.**

The waiting time for mental health assessment or an appointment to see a counsellor is managed through a dynamic schedule and waiting times constantly change. The University does not keep a rolling record or historic records of waiting lists, and is unable to provide an accurate “average” for this information.

Accordingly, I have to advise you under section 17(1)(b) of the Act, that the University does not hold the information requested on this subject and is not aware of any other public authority which may hold relevant information.

#### **5. Any internal reports or reviews relating to mental health provision over the last 5 years.**

The University developed and implemented a Student Mental Health Action Plan which was approved by Executive Team, in spring 2017. Full implementation of the staffing structure to support the implementation of the plan and embedding of new services was achieved in November 2018 and the roll out of the plan continues in 2018/19.

#### **Copyright:**

This information is supplied under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and copyright in it belongs to the University of Strathclyde or to another party. Releasing this information to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not convey a right to reuse that information in a way that would infringe copyright. Copyright material must not be copied, stored, distributed, modified, reproduced, transmitted, published (including published on the internet or intranet) in any form or by any means or otherwise made available in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the copyright holder.

#### **Freedom of Information Review Procedure:**

If you are unhappy with the University’s response, please contact the Information Governance Unit by post or email to request a review of our actions.

Information Governance Unit  
University of Strathclyde  
Room 2.74  
McCance Building  
16 Richmond Street  
Glasgow G1 1XQ

E-mail: [foi@strath.ac.uk](mailto:foi@strath.ac.uk)

The University will then undertake an internal review and inform you of the result of that review.

All such requests for review should be made in writing, setting out in full the nature of the enquiry to which it pertains, and stating why you are dissatisfied with the response. A request for review should be submitted within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the University or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.

Please note that links provided to information available elsewhere are intended to assist Freedom of Information access. Requests for information held by other public authorities and any complaints regarding access to such information should be addressed to that authority. These review procedures relate only to information which is directly under the control of the University of Strathclyde.

If the University is unable to resolve any complaint, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. A complaint to the Commissioner must be made within 6 months from the date of the University's response.

The Commissioner has an online appeal service which can be accessed via [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal).

Alternatively, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner via the following methods:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Tel: 01334 464610  
Website: [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Unit  
University of Strathclyde