

Our Ref: foi 2018/244

Kirsty Card  
request-537670-575d0448@whatdotheyknow.com

Thursday, 24 January 2019

Dear Kirsty Card,

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

Regarding your request for information received by the University of Westminster on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

**The Request**

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

- 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.**

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

**Please provide the above information digitally, preferably in the form of an excel spreadsheet.**

**The Response**

Please see below the University's response.

**1. Support Service Staff**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>FTE</b>
2013/2014	3.6 FTE permanent staff. Up to 0.8 FTE sessional
2014/2015	4 FTE permanent staff. Up to 1 FTE sessional
2015/2016	4 FTE until Feb 2016 then 4.9 FTE. Up to 1.5 FTE sessional
2016/2017	4.9 FTE permanent staff. Up to 1.8 FTE sessional
2017/2018	5.9 FTE permanent staff. 0.8 FTE sessional

**2. The budget for mental health support:**

<b>Counselling Budget</b>	<b>Including Pay</b>	<b>Non Pay</b>
from 2013/14 to 2014/15	Information Not Held	Information Not Held
2015/16	£345,900.67	£16,897.95
2016/17	£369,559.75	£40,675.04
2017/18	£338,609.82	£25,378.59

**3. The number of students seeking mental health support:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
2013-14	756
2014-15	684
2015-16	768
2016-17	763
2017-18	861

4. The current approximate wait time for a counselling appointment is between 1-3 weeks depending on demand. The University does not hold records on past waiting times.

5. The University's Student Wellbeing strategy can be found on our website at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/corporate-information/policies-and-documents-a-z> In line with this strategy an internal document was produced concerning the provision for support for students through the role of specialist mentors. Please see attached this report.

Please note that the University exempts the disclosure of some of the information in this document under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) S43(2) commercial interests exemption.

For your information Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) says:

*(1) Information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret.*

*(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).*

*(3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice the interests mentioned in subsection (2).*

See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/43>

The University would be likely to prejudice its ability to negotiate effectively with its current supplier or alternative suppliers if this information was made public. Whilst the University recognises the need for transparency, it considers that in this case the public interest lies in ensuring the University can continue to get the best agreements it can by not disclosing this information.

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  
University of Westminster  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cavendish House  
London W1W 6XH

**By Telephone:** 0207 911 5158  
**By Email:** [foi@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:foi@westminster.ac.uk)

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  
[foi@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:foi@westminster.ac.uk)