

25 February 2021

Ref: FOI21 - 085

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your email of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see the responses to each of your questions below:

**Statistics of number of parents / nominated persons contacted by university**

**Student 'opt-in' or 'consent at registration' was a hot topic in 2018. Essentially it involves lowering the bar at which parents or nominated others could be contacted by a university, when there are serious concerns that something bad might happen to an enrolled student, and/or where their health or wellbeing could be affected. The opt-in consent at registration would apply in circumstances that are not necessarily emergencies, and/or where there is no imminent threat to a student's vital interests. Having an emergency contact procedure, that has been extended to cover students who had gone missing, with no specific policy or provision for the lower threshold of serious concerns, would not qualify as 'opt-in'.**

**It is quite unthinkable that such an important policy would not have been implemented at your institution. Please provide me with the following more detailed information:**

- **How many students opted-in for each of the academic periods**

**2018-19,      2019-20      2020-21?**

**Please provide the above information according to year of study: 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year.**

**For each period and cohort sub-division:**

- **How many students subsequently rescinded their consent?**
- **How many times was the opt-in consent used to contact somebody?**

The University does not hold data on the presenting issues of students accessing Wellbeing Services in a way which could be reported. Such data may be available within the case notes of each individual, it would take the University longer than the 18 hours set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information act to determine if the data is held.

*This response has been prepared in accordance with a request received pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The supply of documents under FOI does not give the person who receives the information an automatic right to re-use the documents without obtaining the consent of the copyright holder. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. You must submit this to the Information Governance Office in writing within 40 days of receipt of this notification. Please quote the reference number above.*





*If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. (<https://ico.org.uk/>)*

Kind Regards,

Information Governance

University of Exeter

