



**CROWN OFFICE
& PROCURATOR
FISCAL SERVICE**

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

Response and Information Unit
Crown Office
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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Michael Conway

Tel: 0300 020 3000
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By email:

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R021329

29 July 2019

Dear Michael Conway,

I refer to your e-mail of 8 July 2019 in which you requested the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA):

- 1. For each of the past ten academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many people have committed suicide while a student at a Scottish university?*
- 2. Please provide, if possible, a breakdown by gender for each year.*
- 3. For each of the past 10 academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many people have committed suicide on a university campus?*
- 4. Please provide, if possible, a breakdown by gender for each year.*
- 5. Whether or not Scottish universities have, in the last ten years, had contact with the Procurator Fiscal to obtain or discuss the above information.*

The Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service's case management database is a live, operating database. It is designed to meet our business needs in relation to the processing of criminal cases, and the information within it is structured accordingly. We do not have a separate statistical database, and hold only operational data needed for business purposes.

The level of information you have requested is not recorded on our systems and therefore a manual search on individual cases would be required.

There were over 10,000 death reports received in 2018-19 and therefore a manual search would be over the FOI cost limits.

We do endeavour to provide information whenever possible. However, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving and providing the information requested would exceed the upper cost limit of £600. Under Section 12 of FOISA public authorities are not required to comply with a request for information if the



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authority estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the upper cost limit, which is currently set at £600 by Regulations made under Section 12.

The information you are seeking may more effectively be obtained from the National Records of Scotland (NRS). I have attached a link to NRS which may be of some assistance. Contact details are also available on their webpages:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/suicides>

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled, you do have the right to ask us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please e-mail foi@copfs.gov.uk

The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision making process.

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, please note that although generally under section 47(1) of FOISA there is a right of appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner, where the information requested is held by the Lord Advocate as head of the systems of criminal prosecution and investigation of deaths in Scotland, under section 48(c) no application can be made as respects a request for review made to the Lord Advocate. The information you have requested appears to fall into that category, although ultimately it would be for the Commissioner to decide whether that was the case should you refer the matter to him.

In circumstances where section 48(c) does not apply and the Commissioner accepts an appeal, should you subsequently wish to appeal against that decision, there is a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours sincerely

H Hart
Response and Information Unit

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