

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2019-1674
Date: 06/08/2019



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- 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 Scottish university campuses?**
- 4. For each of the past 10 academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many attempted suicides have occurred on Scottish university campuses?**

In response to these questions, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, there are no means of searching for “universities” specifically on our incident recording systems. There are also no markers etc. available on our systems to indicate whether or not the incident was recorded in a “university”. In order to determine the information required all “sudden death” and “concern for person” reports would have to be manually examined to determine if suicide or attempted suicide along with a university building were involved. In 2018/2019 alone there have been 9746 reports of “sudden death” I estimate that it would take 2 minutes for each report to be examined, this would take in excess of 300 hours work. This exceeds 40 hours work and would therefore be cost exempt.

5. Whether or not Scottish universities have, in the last ten years, had contact with Police Scotland to obtain or discuss the above information.

In response to this question, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, there is no information held centrally that would indicate that Police Scotland have been directly involved with universities specifically to discuss suicide or attempted suicide. However, Police Scotland may have been involved with specific universities on a local level. In order to determine this, every officer notebook and electronic notebook along with emails would have to be manually examined to determine if there had been any contact. This is an exercise that I estimate would exceed 40 hours work and would therefore be cost exempt.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management – Edinburgh on 0131 311 3901 quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.