

Our ref: F19/140

5th July 2019

Dear Mr Conway

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information requested

Your request for information has been considered and the information is enclosed.

You requested the following information:-

1. For each of the past ten academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many UWS students have died while a student at the university?

Please note our records are available from academic year 2013/14.

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 to date
7	3	5	3	6	4

2. Please provide, if possible, a breakdown by gender for each year.

Year	M	F
2013/14	4	3
2014/15	3	0
2015/16	2	3
2016/17	3	0
2017/18	4	2
2018/19 (to date)	3	1

3. For each of the past ten academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many UWS students have committed suicide while a student at the university?

This information is exempt under Section 17 of the Act: Information not held. We do not collect or hold records on the circumstances surrounding the death of a student and we are therefore unable to provide the information.

4. The university's rationale behind choosing to record or not to record student suicides.

The University does not receive formal notification of the cause of death and therefore we are not able to record it.

5. University policy regarding all actions the university take after a student commits suicide.

The University's involvement following any student death will vary dependent on the individual circumstances of each case. All deaths in the student community are particularly sensitive, often colleagues immediately involved would meet to share Information, concerns, next steps and future plans.

The University's priority is to acknowledge the family's wishes and offer support to all involved. This will generally involve assigning the family a single point of contact to facilitate all interactions with the University, and sensitively communicating in a range of ways with classmates, flatmates, and others in the academic school or more widely to offer support.

Our Student Services staff and the Spiritual Care Team are available to offer help and support to students and staff, as appropriate to the situation. Please find link to "Supporting your Wellbeing" webpage [here](#).

University staff also have access to a Health Assured Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). EAPs are intended to help employees deal with issues that might adversely impact their work performance, health, and wellbeing.

***SafeTALK (NHS Scotland)* is training which is intended as "suicide alertness" training. *SafeTALK* has been delivered to a number of staff and students already and this is planned to continue. This will raise awareness further, increasing the likelihood of anyone in a potential crisis situation being proactively offered support and made aware of any other means of support available to them.**

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your enquiry you have a right to review under the Act as laid out in the notices below.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Office
University of the West of Scotland**

Notices

1. Right of Review

In the event that you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request for information, you may require us to review our actions and decisions relating to your request ('Review Request').

Your Review Request must be made to us in writing or in other durable form, stating your name and address for correspondence, specifying the request for information to which your Review Request relates and the matters that have given rise to your dissatisfaction.

It must be provided to us within 40 working days (which phrase excludes Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day and Scottish Bank Holidays) after the expiry of the period within which we were obliged under the Act to respond to your request for information.

You may withdraw your Review Request by notice to us in writing at any time.

Assuming your Review Request is not withdrawn, we are required to conduct our review and respond to you ('Review Response') within 20 working days (which phrase excludes Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day and Scottish Bank Holidays) after the date on which we received your Review Request. The request for review should be addressed to:

Emma Cuckow, University Solicitor, University of the West of Scotland, Paisley Campus, Paisley, PA1 2BE Email: Emma.Cuckow@uws.ac.uk

2. Right of Appeal

In the event that you have not withdrawn your Review Request and we have failed to respond to you within the proscribed time, or you are dissatisfied with our Review Response, you may apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether we have dealt with your request in accordance with the Act ('Appeal Application').

Your Appeal Application must be made to the Scottish Information Commissioner in writing or in other durable form, stating your name and address for correspondence, specifying the request for information to which your Appeal Application relates and the matters that have given rise to your dissatisfaction.

It must be provided to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months after the date you received our Review Response or, in the event that we did not provide you with a Review Response within the proscribed time, within six months after the expiry of that period. The address of the Scottish Information Commissioner is:

Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS Tel 01334 464 610; Fax 01334 464 611; email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info; www.itspublicknowledge.info