



Information Assurance and Governance
Office of the Principal

8 July 2019

Dear Mr Conway,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Our Ref: 243-19

Please find below the University's response to your enquiry dated 17 June 2019 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the FOISA").

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

Along with the data requested, you are being provided with the total number of Full Time Equivalent degree seeking students for your information.

Table 1: Number of registered degree seeking students

Academic Year	FTE
2008/9	7252
2009/0	7488
2010/1	7730
2011/2	7775
2012/3	7582
2013/4	7860
2014/5	8206
2015/6	8420
2016/7	8786
2017/8	9140
2018/9	8983

Table 2/

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Table 2: Number of students recorded as deceased

Academic Year	Headcount	Female	Male
2008/9	3	0	3
2009/0	1	0	1
2010/1	1	1	0
2011/2	3	1	2
2012/3	7	2	5
2013/4	5	1	4
2014/5	3	1	2
2015/6	2	2	0
2016/7	3	2	1
2017/8	4	3	1
2018/9*	1	1	0

*Note – Data as at 27 June 2019. Academic year 2018/19 ends on 31 July 2019.

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

Please refer to Table 2 above for the requested breakdown.

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

The University is an educational institution and does not have the authority to determine/record/report the cause of death. This responsibility lies with the Procurator Fiscal's Office in Scotland and it is not something that the University is necessarily informed about. As such, the requested information does not form part of the records held by the University.

Advice and Assistance

The contact details for the Procurator Fiscal's Office in Dundee can be found at: <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/in-your-community/our-offices/office-details/?id=52> .

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

The FOISA gives a right of access to recorded information held by a Scottish public authority. This does not extend to requiring the University to explain its operational practices where no information of relevance is held in a recorded format as in this case.

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

The University is currently developing a framework for responding to a suicide in the University community in response to the Universities Suicide Safer guidance. For your information, details of this guidance can be found at: <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/suicide-safer> .

Information/

Information not held

Section 17 of the FOISA requires that a Scottish public authority confirms in writing where information requested of it is not held and for the reasons provided at 3 and 4 above, notice is given to this effect.

Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with the University's response and/or our reasoning set-out above, you have the right to request a review of our decision. The time lines in which this right is available are set out in section 20(5)(a) and (b) FOISA. In broad terms the right to seek a review must be exercised within 40 working days of receiving this response.

Any request for review should be put in writing or some other permanent form e.g. an e-mail and should be sent to the University of St Andrews, through the contact details provided below.

A request for a Review should:

- a) state your name and address;
- b) describe the nature of your original request; and
- c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response.

Freedom of Information / Environmental Information

University of St Andrews

Butts Wynd (Building)

St Andrews

Fife

KY16 9AJ

Email foi@st-andrews.ac.uk

Telephone +44(0)1334 462776

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with following Review, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) for a decision. In the event of an appeal to the SIC, the Commissioner will generally only be able to investigate the matters raised in the request for review.

Details on how to make an appeal online to the SIC can be found on their website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

Alternatively/

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The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC013532

Alternatively, you can contact the SIC by post, telephone or email at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

This concludes the University's response.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Information Assurance and Governance Officer.

Information Assurance and Governance Officer