

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

19 February 2019

Ref: FOI/January 2019/ Neil Johnston

By email to neil.johnston@thetimes.co.uk

The Burroughs
Hendon
London
NW4 4BT
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 8411 4061
e-mail:
j.gilchrist@mdx.ac.uk
www.mdx.ac.uk

Dear Mr Johnston

Your request for information received on 28 January 2019 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I seek the following information:

1) Please state the number of drug raids or searches carried out on student halls of residence at your university by:

- a) Police
- b) University security or halls of residence security
- c) Private security hired by university specifically for drugs searches.

In the following academic years:

2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/2019

2) If a private security firm was brought in especially to search for drugs, please provide the name of the firm, and then amount paid to them in each of the above academic years.

3) Please state the number of drugs raids or searches where

- a) Illegal drugs were found
- b) No illegal drugs were found

Please provide the figures as the number of student rooms, properties or shared areas searched and the number of these where drugs were found.

Providing a breakdown if possible within the cost limit as to which type of security body (police, university security or specially hired private security) conducted the search.

4)

a) Please state the number of students disciplined by your university due to illegal drugs being found in their possession in each of the following years: 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/2019.

b) Please provide a breakdown of this number by the kinds disciplinary action taken, e.g. suspension, expulsion, fine, no further action.

c) Please state the number of occasions where evidence was passed to the police by your university after drugs were found by university staff in the possession of a student.

5) Please state whether the university owns a drug sniffer dog or has hired one from the beginning of the 2015/16 academic year to date, and the cost of this in each academic year.

6) Please state whether the university uses bodycams or drug swabs during searches of student's halls or rooms.

7) If possible within the cost limit, please provide a copy of internal guidance on conducting drug raids on students, including any legal advice issued to staff and/or security.

University Response

1) No raids or searches have been carried out by any of these parties during the time period you have specified.

2) see previous response.

3) see above responses.

4)

a) 2015/16: <5
2016/17: 9
2017/18: 8

b) The specific details of completed investigations and their outcomes are withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act which covers the personal data of third parties where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act. We owe a duty of confidence to all parties involved in investigations of this nature; therefore the University considers the information to be exempt from disclosure. So in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, (the Act), this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

c) The University would investigate any relevant incidents reported to us by the police but our Student Conduct and Discipline investigation procedure is not set up to have an outcome that would result in us reporting incidents to the police.

5) The University does not own or has not hired a drug sniffer dog during the period of time you have specified.

6) The University does not use bodycams or drug swabs during searches of student's halls or rooms.

7) We do not have any University specific guidance on conducting drug raids on students, including any legal advice issued to staff and/or security.

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have

such a complaint, you may contact Mr David Maplas, Director of Student Affairs, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 5830, d.malpas@mdx.ac.uk within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer