

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

16 July 2018

Ref: FOI/June 2018/ George Greenwood

By email to George.Greenwood@bbc.co.uk

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Dear Mr Greenwood

Your request for information received on 7 June 2018 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act.
This request concerns your university's mental health services.

- 1) Please state the number of students that have accessed university mental health services in each of the following academic years:
 - a) 2012/13
 - b) 2013/14
 - c) 2014/15
 - d) 2015/16
 - e) 2016/17
 - f) 2017/18 to 07.06.18

- 2) Please provide the average wait time in days for students from first request for help to first counselling or treatment session in each of the following academic years:
 - a) 2012/13
 - b) 2013/14
 - c) 2014/15
 - d) 2015/16
 - e) 2016/17
 - f) 2017/18 to 07.06.18

- 3) In the current academic year (01.09.17 to 07.06.2018), please provide the five longest wait times in days for students from first request for help to first counselling or treatment session. Please include wait times that concluded in this period. If held, please provide the reason for the delay in each case.

- 4) Please provide your total spend on mental health services in each of the following academic years.
- a) 2012/13
 - b) 2013/14
 - c) 2014/15
 - d) 2015/16
 - e) 2016/17
 - f) 2017/18 to 07.06.18
- 5) Please provide a copy of all communications in the current academic year (01.09.17 to 07.06.2018) between your head of student support services or the person with this responsibility and:
- a) NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups
 - b) NHS mental health trusts
 - c) Student accommodation providers

Concerning the coordination of mental health support for students.

University Response

1. We did not begin to systematically record this data until 2013/14 but for the data we do hold:
 - 2013/14: 354
 - 2014/15: 468
 - 2015/16: 580
 - 2016/17: 617
 - 2017/18: 805 to date of request
2. We do not record specific waiting times for individual students seeking treatment however we aim that students wait no longer than 4 weeks between their referral and being seen by a Counselling and Mental Health Specialist. This is a significant improvement on previous academic years when the wait was 12 weeks at peak times.

3. See above response.

4.

	Budget
17/18	£443,331 (provisional not actual)
16/17	£356,096
15/16	£228,549
14/15	£216,661
13/14	£255,071
12/13	£123,406

5. The University would engage with NHS Mental Health Trusts and Student Accommodation Partners in relation to student cases in which it has been necessary to liaise with these bodies to support students.

The specific details of these communications 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 cases of this nature, especially the student themselves; 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.

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 Mrs Teresa Kelly, Clerk to the Board of Governors, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 6018, t.kelly@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