

**Mr John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer

21 February 2019

Ref: FOI/January 2019/ Sean Fitzsimons

By email to [seandecfitz@gmail.com](mailto:seandecfitz@gmail.com)

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Dear Mr Fitzsimons

Your request for information received on 30 January 2019 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

1) Please could you tell me how many mental health counsellors your university had in employment across all of its colleges and campuses at the start of each semester for the 2017-2018 academic year, and for the first semester of the 2018-2019 academic year - broken down by:

The total number of mental health counsellors in employment each semester

The number of mental health counsellors in employment on a full-time basis (working 35 hours or more per week) each semester

The number of mental health counsellors in employment to work two working days or fewer per week each semester

2) For the 2017-2018 academic year, and for the first semester of the 2018-2019 academic year, please could you tell me how many students across all of your colleges and campuses formally requested an appointment for mental health counselling at your university at least once - broken down by:

the number of student requests each semester of each academic year

3) For the 2017-2018 academic year, and for the first semester of the 2018-2019 academic year, please could you tell me how many students across all of your colleges and campuses were treated by your university's mental health counsellors at least once - broken down by:

The number of students each semester of each academic year

If available, the number of students counselled for depression

If available, the number of students counselled for anxiety

4) Of the students who have been treated by your university's mental health counselors, please could you specify for each semester of the 2017-2018 academic year, and for the first semester of the 2018-2019 academic year:

How many students have been treated by your university's mental health counsellors with 20 or more appointments.

5) For the 2017-2018 academic year, and the first semester of the 2018-2019 academic year, please could you tell me how many students were referred to external services (such as local NHS services) for mental health treatment, specifying:

The number of referrals in each semester of each academic year.

### **University Response**

1)

#### **2018/19**

Student Mental Counselling and Health Manager	1FTE
Mental Health Advisors	2FTE
Counsellor	3.15FTE
Counselling Psychologist	1FTE
Wellbeing Services Administrator	1FTE
Associate Training Counsellor - Voluntary	7

#### **2017/18**

Student Mental Counselling and Health Manager	1FTE
Mental Health Advisors	2FTE
Counsellor	3.15FTE
Counselling Psychologist	1FTE
Wellbeing Services Administrator	1FTE
Associate Training Counsellor - Voluntary	0
Psychiatrist - 90 hours	0.05FTE

2)

- 2017/18: 753
- 2018/19: 324 (to date of request)

3) See above. All students seeking counselling and mental health support will receive at least an initial assessment to determine an appropriate response to their individual needs.

4 and 5) The specific details of students treatment and any subsequent referrals 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.

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](mailto: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