

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

7 January 2019

Ref: FOI/December 2018/ Ed Southgate

By email to edsouthgatejournalist@gmail.com

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Dear Mr Southgate

Your request for information received on 4 December 2018 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding support for students when they start at the University/ Higher Education institution. Please could I have the answers to the following questions:

1. Do you have a system for recording if students come to university with a pre-existing mental health condition?

If yes,

a) How many students arrived at university with a pre-existing mental health condition? Can I have this both as a figure and as a percentage of the student cohort that year. Please can I have this information broken down for the past five academic years.

b) Of the students who disclosed they had a pre-existing mental health condition, how many were seen by a staff member trained in mental health within their first month at university?

2. Do you have a system for recording if students come to university with a history of mental health conditions i.e. not suffering at the time of enrolment.

If yes,

a) How many students arrived at university with a history of mental illness? Can I have this both as a figure and as a percentage of the student cohort that year. Please can I have this information broken down for the past five academic years.

b) Of the students who disclosed they have a history of mental illness, how many were seen by a staff member trained in mental health within their first month at university?

University Response

At time of entry students can choose to disclose that they have a disability (which includes enduring health and mental health conditions – “physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities”).

So what is captured there is only as students choose to disclose, and many for a number of reasons will not recognise a mental health condition as a disability, and/or will choose not to disclose.

Middlesex University does not detail the category of disability at this point, so we couldn't know which students have a pre-existing mental health condition (and in fact, even if the condition emerges whilst they are studying, it may have already existed, unrecognised and undiagnosed).

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