

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

17 October 2018

Ref: FOI/August 2018/ Stephanie Jones-Berry

By email to stephanie.berry@rcni.com

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Dear Ms Jones-Berry

Your request for information received on 23 August 2018 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

Please accept the following request for information from the last two academic years. Please note: 'hardship funding' as described in this request refers to money set aside by the university to help financially struggling students continue their studies and may be known as 'discretionary', 'access to learning', 'student opportunity', or 'hardship' funds, or some kind of short-term loan and may include money provided from the government but distributed through the university. Essentially we are interested in any financial help (outside of loans and tuition fees) awarded to students to support them in their studies.

Considering this definition:

1) How much money in total has been allocated by the university as hardship funding for its nursing students (ideally please supply data solely for nursing students, *rather than* midwifery or allied health professional students, although if you can only provide data mixed in with any of the preceding or in a lump 'healthcare student' category, please still provide this, but make it clear that this is how the data comes)

- in 2016-17 (e.g.: £560,000)
- in 2017-18 (e.g.: £560,000)

2) If possible, please also include the total number of nursing students that have received funds of this type:

- in 2016-17 (e.g.: 24 students)
- in 2017-18 (e.g.: 24 students)

3) Please list the reasons (in order of common frequency if possible) for awarding nursing students hardship allowance funds, access to learning funds, or other discretionary funding to support their studies?

(For example: summer rent, payday loans, childcare, equipment etc.)

4) Finally, if you are able to extract separate figures showing how many nursing students were awarded specific funding for childcare, such as 'childcare allowance', 'parent learning allowance', or 'dependents allowance', we would be grateful to see how much was awarded to students in total:

- in 2016-17

- in 2017-18

University Response

2016/17		
Cluster	Amount	Number of Students
Mental Health	£26,722	30
Midwifery and Child Care	£20,181	21
Nursing For Specialist & Advanced Practice	£115,072	85

2017/18		
Cluster	Amount	Number of Students
Mental Health	£35,841	27
Midwifery and Child Care	£20,861	21
Nursing For Specialist & Advanced Practice	£80,409	77

Cluster	Programmes Included
Mental Health	BSc Nursing (Mental Health)
Midwifery and Child Care	BSc Nursing (Child)
Nursing For Specialist & Advanced Practice	BSc European Nursing(Adult), BSc Nursing (Adult), PGDip Nursing with Reg (Adult)

We do not record specific reasons for the awarding of funds as part of our records so we do not hold the information requested for question 3 and 4.

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
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