

**Mr John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer

10 July 2019

Ref: FOI/June 2019/ Emma Bond

By email to [e.bond@uos.ac.uk](mailto:e.bond@uos.ac.uk)

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Dear Professor Bond

Your request for information received on 14 June 2019 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I am working on a research study investigating online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech involving university students in the UK. I am working with Professor Andy Phippen, Professor of IT and Social Responsibility from the University of Plymouth.

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. Your University polic(ies) addressing how the institution tackles online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online in the student body.
2. The name of the member of your university executive team directly responsible for student safeguarding.
3. The name of the member of your university governing body/board directly responsible for student safeguarding.
4. Details of how students can report incidents of online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online in your institution.
5. The number of student disciplinarys where online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online was a factor per year for each academic year from 2015-16 to 2017-18.
6. Number of reports made to the police where online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online was a factor per year for each academic year from 2015-16 to 2017-18.

## **University Response**

1. The University's [Student Conduct and Discipline rules](#).
2. Sophie Bowen, Chief Operating Officer
3. The University's Safeguarding Board, which is chaired by the Director of Student Affairs
4. The University's [Care and Concern Process](#)
5. Our Student Conduct and Discipline rules do not have a specific category for cases involving online abuse. Cases of this nature would be investigated under the broader category of abusive behaviour.
6. We do not as a matter of course inform the Police in regards to any of the cases we investigate under our Student Conduct and Discipline rules. If the Police inform us of a relevant case we will conduct a University investigation once the Police have concluded their investigation.

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