

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

2 March 2018

Ref: FOI/February 2018/ Greg Hurst

By email to greg.hurst@thetimes.co.uk

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Dear Mr Hurst

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

You asked:

I am a journalist at The Times. I am trying to quantify reports I have picked up that some young people in their teens and early 20s, including students, are misusing prescription drugs, notably Xanax (Alprazolam) or other benzodiazepines, which can carry very high risk.

Please could the university answer the following questions:

1. Has the university had cases of concern in which students were or appeared to be misusing Xanax (Alprazolam) or other benzodiazepines?
2. If so, how many cases - could you break these down for each of the past 3 years, and if available give ages for the students involved?
3. If you have had such cases could you say if there were consequences for the student (s) concerned eg referral to counselling services, referral to GP, admission to hospital, or have any cases of deaths of students been linked to use of misuse of Xanax / Alprazolam or other benzodiazepines?
4. have any students faced disciplinary action linked to misuse of Xanax (Alprazolam) or other benzodiazepines? If so, how many cases - could you break these down by outcome (eg warning, expulsion) for each of the past 3 years, and if available give ages for the students involved?

University Response

The University has not received or been made aware of any cases concern in which students were or appeared to be misusing Xanax (Alprazolam) or other benzodiazepines.

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