

**Mr John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer

18 September 2018

Ref: FOI/August 2018/ Ewan Somerville

By email to [ewansomerville1@gmail.com](mailto:ewansomerville1@gmail.com)

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Dear Mr Somerville

Your request for information received on 8 August 2018 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

My request for information under the FOIA is as follows:

would like to know how many students from your university have deferred their studies/taken a leave of absence on health AND/OR personal grounds:

- AND if you hold information for BOTH categories
- OR if you only hold information for ONE of these categories
- if collecting data for BOTH categories would exceed time and cost limits, please only provide information for health grounds.

I would like this data from the past 5 years, showing whether there has been an increase or decrease during this time.

This includes both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

### **University Response**

We are writing to advise you that it has been necessary to refuse this part of the request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

We estimate that compliance with your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit established by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this is currently set at £450 (or 18 hours work) by virtue of the [1] Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. Our estimate has considered the time it would take to determine whether we hold the information and then to locate, retrieve and extract it. We estimate that to determine whether we hold the requested information, and then to locate, retrieve, and extract that information would take longer than 18 hours to complete.

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](mailto: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