

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

2 August 2018

Ref: FOI/July 2018/ Ajit Niranjana

By email to ajit.niranjana@ft.com

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Dear Mr Niranjana

Your request for information received on 10 July 2018 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please send me:

1. The number of students who died by suicide while enrolled on an academic course at this university for each academic year since the academic year ending summer 2000; broken down by gender, age at death, and level of study (undergraduate, postgraduate taught, or postgraduate research).
2. The number of students who dropped out of an academic course that they were enrolled on at this university due to mental health problems for each academic year since the academic year ending 2000; broken down by gender, age upon leaving, and level of study (undergraduate, postgraduate taught, or postgraduate research).
3. The total number of students enrolled on an academic course at this university for each academic year since the academic year ending summer 2000; broken down by gender, age bracket (<20, 21 - 24, 25 - 29, 30+), and level of study (undergraduate, postgraduate taught, or postgraduate research).

University Response

1. The University does not have access to coroner's reports and so are unable to confirm whether the small number of student deaths of which we have been made aware during the time period in the FOI request are indeed students who have suicided.
2. The official reasons recorded for students who are dropping out of an academic course are not recorded in the level of detail that would indicate mental health problems; the reason would be cited as *Health Reasons* which is obviously a much broader category. Therefore,

we are not able to differentiate mental health problems from our data so we do not hold this information.

3. This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. This information is available through HESA. The following tables include these fields which are publicly available on the HESA website:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/where-study>

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/where-study/characteristics>

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