



University of East Anglia

Information Services Directorate

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Dear 

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_17-176)

We have now considered your request of 12 July 2017 for the following information:

- 1) *'How many nursing students (excluding midwifery students) and medical students did your university have at the start of the 2015-16 academic year (or corresponding time date as requested in the following questions)? Please separate out the two totals, eg: 230 nursing students and 150 medical students*
- 2) *How many nursing students (excluding midwifery students) took (any number of) sick days in: (i) The 2015-16 academic year (OR the most recent last full academic year you have complete figures for): Eg: 89 nursing students*
- 3) *How many medical students took (any number of) sick days in: The 2015-16 academic year (OR the most recent last full academic year you have complete figures for)? Eg: 60 medical students*
- 4) *How many nursing students who took sick leave during these time periods identified 'anxiety, stress, depression' (ASD) or other psychological condition? Eg: 31 nursing students*
- 5) *How many medical students who took sick leave during these time periods identified 'anxiety, stress, depression' (ASD) or other psychological condition? Eg: 12 medical students.'*

Unfortunately, on this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. We have determined that the cost of finding and assembling some of the requested information will exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by section 12 of the Act and the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004/3244.

The 'appropriate limit' of £450, which equates to 18 hours' work, can relate to one request in its entirety or to a series of linked requests. If the University cannot locate, retrieve and extract some or all of the requested information within the 18 hours we are not obliged to retrieve any of the requested information.

We are able to provide an answer to questions 1, 2 and 3 within the time limit, however answering questions 4 and 5 would exceed the limit. Students are not required to report this information, but if they choose to inform the University of the

listed conditions, they may do so in a range of ways that cannot be readily extracted and compiled.

For example, students may provide information on their mental wellbeing to their Advisers, to Student Support Services, or inform the Learning and Teaching Service at the time of absence. For the latter, this information would be recorded in a free text field on their electronic student record. A member of staff would need to review each of these free text fields in order to determine whether an absence had been related to one of the listed conditions.

A total of 1,177 students (552 nursing students and 625 Medical students) were absent for one or more days in the 2015/16 academic year. Allowing just two minutes per student to review and extract any relevant information on their absence from their student record would represent over 39 hours of work, and would still only provide a partial picture of any conditions the student had chosen to report to the University. Obtaining information from other areas of the University would require additional work and deduplication, which we are confident would far exceed the 18 hour limit.

I hope this adequately explains our position, but to assist you in formulating a request to which we could respond if you wanted to submit a revised request we would be happy to provide answers to questions 1, 2 and 3 of your original request – note that 2 and 3 are effectively answered in the preceding paragraph.

You have the right of appeal against this decision. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your grounds of appeal and send to me at the address noted in the heading to this letter.

You must appeal our decision within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us, or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Ellen Paterson
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia