



06 March 2019

Dear 

Freedom of Information Act 2000– Information request (ref: FOI_19-031)

We have now considered your request of 28 January 2019 for information relating to drugs raids and searches undertaken within the University's halls of residence. Once again, our apologies for delaying our full response to you.

Our final response, which supersedes our initial response of 29 January, is on pages 2-3, together with a copy of your request. We have now included data we were unable to provide to you in our initial response, specifically 2018/19 data for questions 4(a) and 4(b).

As mentioned within our previous letter to you, it is not possible to provide some of the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm that the University does not hold information relevant to questions 5 and 7 of your request. Please see further explanation on pages 3 and 4.

We hope the information we are able to provide will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 40 working days of the date of this letter. In line with section 5.3 of the UK Government's Freedom of Information Act Code of Practice, we are not obliged to accept internal reviews after this date.

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.

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

Yours sincerely

Kirsty McDonald
Information Compliance Assistant

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_19-031)

1) Please state the number of drug raids or searches carried out on student halls of residence at your university by:

- a) Police
- b) University security or halls of residence security
- c) Private security hired by university specifically for drugs searches.

In the following academic years:

2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/2019

Zero. There have been no drug raids or searches undertaken on student halls of residences. Police are not routinely invited to undertake searches for illegal substances and the University does not deploy or hire security specifically to undertake searches for drugs.

2) If a private security firm was brought in especially to search for drugs, please provide the name of the firm, and then amount paid to them in each of the above academic years.

Not applicable – see response to question 1 above.

3) Please state the number of drugs raids or searches where

- a) Illegal drugs were found
- b) No illegal drugs were found

Please provide the figures as the number of student rooms, properties or shared areas searched and the number of these where drugs were found.

Providing a breakdown if possible within the cost limit as to which type of security body (police, university security or specially hired private security) conducted the search

Zero. There has not been a drugs raid or any searches undertaken in the requested time period.

4)

a) Please state the number of students disciplined by your university due to illegal drugs being found in their possession in each of the following years: 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/2019.

Our response is in the table below.

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
No of students disciplined	5	17	17	5

b) Please provide a breakdown of this number by the kinds disciplinary action taken, e.g. suspension, expulsion, fine, no further action.

Our response is within the table below.

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
<i>No. of warnings</i>	0	6	4	0
<i>No. of fines</i>	5	11	13	5
<i>No. of referrals to wellbeing support</i>	0	1	0	0

There were no cases of expulsion or suspension due to possession of illegal substances during this time period.

c) Please state the number of occasions where evidence was passed to the police by your university after drugs were found by university staff in the possession of a student.

The University has 197 reports listed under the category of 'drugs/solvents' in which evidence was passed to the police for disposal.

5) Please state whether the university owns a drug sniffer dog or has hired one from the beginning of the 2015/16 academic year to date, and the cost of this in each academic year.

[Information not Held, s.1(1)(a) Freedom of Information Act]

The University does not own a drug sniffer dog, nor have we ever hired a drug sniffer dog in the specified time period. As a consequence, there are no associated costs.

6) Please state whether the university uses bodycams or drug swabs during searches of student's halls or rooms.

The University does not use bodycams or drug swabs during searches of student's halls and/or rooms.

7) If possible within the cost limit, please provide a copy of internal guidance on conducting drug raids on students, including any legal advice issued to staff and/or security.

[Information not held, s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]

The University does not have any internal guidelines for staff (including security staff) when conducting drugs raids, as the University does not conduct drugs raids on students.