



University of East Anglia

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[REDACTED]

11 March 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000– Information request (ref: FOI\_19-039)**

We have now considered your request of 31 January 2019 for information relating to the number of reported sexual assaults.

Our response is on pages 3-4 of this letter, together with a copy of your request. Please note that this response now includes the data we were unable to provide as of the date of our initial response, 28 February; namely, the data we hold for 2018/19 within the Warden Reports held by our Student Support Services (SSS). This should be considered our final response and should supersede our initial response of 28 February.

On this occasion, 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 any of the information requested for the number of sexual assaults reported for the academic year 2019/20, as this academic year does not commence until 01 August 2019.

We hope this information will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right to appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons 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](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us), or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

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

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer  
Information Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia

## Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI\_19-039)

*I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the university.*

*-The number of sexual assaults reported by students to the university in the following years:*

*2014-15  
2015-16  
2016-17  
2017-18  
2018-19  
2019-present*

Please see our response within the table below.

<i>Academic Year</i>	<i>Number of complaints/reports</i>
2014/15	13
2015/16	38
2016/17	60
2017/18	46
2018/19 <sup>1</sup>	52
2019/20	<b><i>[Information not held, s.1(1)(a), FOIA]</i></b>

Please note that this table consists of data from two departments within UEA: Student Support Services (SSS), and our Security Services team. Both departments record information in different ways for different purposes. The figures are only an indication of the maximum number of possible instances of sexual misconduct, based on the recorded information we hold, and are not an exact count of cases.

Concerning the data held by SSS, the figure includes the number of individuals seen by SSS support staff, where the interaction was categorised as 'Victim of sexual misconduct'. Not all forms of sexual misconduct would constitute an 'assault' and therefore the figures may overstate the actual number of reported sexual assaults.

The data held by SSS also includes a count of reports by Assistant Wardens within student accommodation that are flagged within the Warden records as concerning sexual assault. However, this notation doesn't automatically indicate that a sexual assault has occurred, merely that it was one factor relevant to the incident. Additionally, there may be some duplication where an event reported by a Warden is later the subject of meeting with a SSS adviser.

The figures provided in the table above also include reported instances to Security Services that are categorised as 'Indecent/Sexual Offence' within the Security Services incident reporting system. This categorisation does not mean that every incident was an instance of such behaviour, merely that it was part of the report.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that this data is for the partial 2018/19 year, which continues to 31/07/19.

All instances reported to Security Services and involving UEA students are passed to SSS, so there is likely to be some degree of duplication of complaints. However, reports submitted by Security to SSS will only result in follow up involvement by SSS if the student desires this.

Please note that 'Reports of sexual assault' can include reports of historical assault or assault which have taken place outside of the University grounds and therefore does not denote an incident occurring on campus. Please also note that the University records reports of sexual assault that may come from witnesses or third parties who believe they have witnessed an assault. Such cases will still be noted as a 'report of a breach of regulations' and included in the figures above.

These figures, therefore, represent reported instances of assault and/or harassment and should not necessarily be taken as an indication that the behaviour indicated took place or was proven.