



University of East Anglia

Information Compliance (ITCS)

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[REDACTED]

14 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_19-117)**

We have now considered your request of 13 April 2019 for the following information:

*'1. How many reported incidents of drink spiking happened at any alcohol-serving premises on your campus, in the last ten academic years, excluding this year? Can I have the numbers for every academic year please.'*

Unfortunately, on this occasion it is not possible to provide any of the requested information. We have determined that the cost of finding and assembling some of the 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 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 provide any of the information.

Information relevant to your request is most likely to be held by two University departments; our Student Support Services (SSS), and Estates Security Services.

SSS hold files of all counselling sessions and reports of incidents submitted by student accommodation wardens. SSS do not use a specific drink spiking incident category in their reporting systems, therefore reports of this happening may be recorded under a number of other categories, depending on the nature of the incident. Potentially relevant categories include: 'sexual assault', 'sexual misconduct', 'drug use', 'drug dealing' and 'alcohol abuse'.

To locate any requested information held by SSS we would need to undertake a manual review of each incident report to determine which records contain a reference to 'drink spiking' or 'spiked drink', and then the location of the alleged spiking.

For SSS warden reports alone, there are 602 incident reports during that period relating to the categories listed above. Assuming 3 minutes per file to locate any relevant information, we estimate it would require 30 hours of effort to locate this information, which is clearly in excess of the appropriate limit.

If you wished to submit a revised request to the University, we would be able to provide Security Services data from 2012/13 to date. Given the number of reports and possible categories under which SSS record incidents and counselling sessions, we do not feel it would be possible to locate information held by SSS for any length of time.

We are sorry we cannot provide the data you requested, but trust this letter explains our position. If you are unhappy with our response, you have the right of appeal against this decision. 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](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

Dave Palmer  
Information Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia