



11 July 2019

Dear 

Freedom of Information Act 2000– Information request (ref: FOI_19-166)

We have now considered your request of 14 June 2019 for information relating to online bullying and harassment.

Our response is on pages 2 to 3 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

On this occasion it is not possible to provide all 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 2, 3 and 6 of your request. Further information is on page 2 and 3 of this letter.

We hope this information 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
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_19-166)

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. *Your University polic(ies) addressing how the institution tackles online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online in the student body.*

The University's procedures for dealing with harassment can be found here:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/6816233/Procedures+for+Dealing+with+Harassment+2016+Final.pdf/>

2. *The name of the member of your university executive team directly responsible for student safeguarding.*

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

The University is not obligated to hold these designated roles. As we are a Higher Education Institution this places us in a different position to school/college institutions and we are not required to designate specific person(s) to be directly responsible for Safeguarding.

3. *The name of the member of your university governing body/board directly responsible for student safeguarding.*

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

Please see response to question 2 above.

4. *Details of how students can report incidents of online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online in your institution.*

Details of how students can report incidents can be found here:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/neverok/report-it>

5. *The number of student disciplinaries where online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online was a factor per year for each academic year from 2015-16 to 2017-18.*

Our response is in the table below:

| <i>Academic Year</i> | <i>No. of students disciplined</i> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2017-18 | 0 |
| 2016-17 | 0 |
| 2015-16 | 1 |

The figures provided above are the number of students who breached a particular Regulation within the General Regulations for Students¹. In this case it would be breach of Regulation 10, which includes harassment and bullying. The figures are those students whose cases were considered by the University's Senate Student Discipline Committee (SSDC).

6. Number of reports made to the police where online abuse (including image based abuse and online harassment) or hate speech online was a factor per year for each academic year from 2015-16 to 2017-18.

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

The University are not informed of, nor do we record, reports made to police where online abuse and online harassment were a factor.

1

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/7465906/Section+3+General+Regulations+for+Students.pdf>