

[REDACTED]

19 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_19-237)**

We have now considered your request of 29 July 2019 for information relating to racism within the University.

Our response is on page 2-4 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

On this occasion it is not possible to provide all 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 9.1 and 9.2 of your request. Further information is on page 4 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](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\_19-237)

*1.1 Does the university have a mentoring scheme, or schemes, for black and minority ethnic (BME) staff?*

No.

*1.2 If so when did it begin?*

Not applicable.

*1.3 To date, how many BME staff have participated in the mentoring scheme?*

Not applicable.

*2.1 Does the university have a mentoring scheme, or schemes, for black and minority ethnic students?*

No.

*2.2 If so when did it begin?*

Not applicable.

*2.3 To date, how many BME students have participated in the mentoring scheme?*

Not applicable.

*3.1 Do any BME counsellors work in the university's counselling and/or student support service? (Please state whether they are full or part-time.)*

Yes, working within counselling services on a part-time basis.

*3.2 If so, what proportion of the counsellors are BME?*

7%.

*3.3 Are BME students guaranteed the right to see a BME counsellor? Or can they request to see a BME counsellor? (Please specify which where relevant.)*

BME students may not always be guaranteed the right to see a BME counsellor, however where possible a suitable counsellor will be appointed to a student, where such a request has been made during an initial appointment.

*4.1 Does the university have a commitment/project to decolonise the curriculum?\**  
*(See below.)*

*\* Decolonising the curriculum, broadly speaking, is a strategy to incorporate more black and minority ethnic voices and perspectives into the curriculum; it challenges the tradition in Western academia to foreground Eurocentric views and knowledge, and to focus on the work and achievements of white, and usually male, scholars/people.*

Yes.

*4.2 If so, is this project university wide, or limited to specific departments? (if the latter, please list the relevant departments.)*

All Schools are involved in this project. A full list of faculties and Schools can be found on our website: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/faculties>.

*4.3 Is this project part of the university's current strategic plan? Or is it part of a wider plan to address institutional racism or equality and diversity? (Please specify which where relevant.)*

No, it will be part of the University's strategic plan.

*5.1 In the past five academic years – 2014-15; 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18; 2018-19 – has the university repaid course fees to any students who made complaints of racism to the university?*

No.

*5.2 If so, what is the total amount of course fees repaid in this time period?*

Not applicable.

*6.1 Does the university have an access scheme specifically for BME applicants (students, not staff)?*

No.

*6.2 If so when was it set up?*

Not applicable.

*7.1 Does the university's student counselling service keep a record of complaints or cases involving racism?*

Yes.

*7.2 If so, are these figures included in the university's record of formal racism complaints?*

Yes.

8.1 Does the university's security team keep a record of complaints or reports of racist incidents?

Yes.

8.2 If so, are these figures included in the university's record of formal racism complaints?

Yes.

9.1 Does the university's student union keep a record of complaints or cases involving racism?

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

The Union of UEA Students is a separate legal body from the University. UEA does not keep information on behalf of the Student Union.

9.2 If so, are these figures included in the university's record of formal racism complaints?

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

Please see our response to question 9.1 above.

10.1 Does the university record anonymous complaints of racism made by students?

Yes.

10.2 If so, are these figures included in the university's record of formal racism complaints?

Yes.