

[REDACTED]

28 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_19-221)

We have now considered your request of 16 July 2019 for information relating to sexual misconduct against students.

Our final response, which supersedes our initial response of 15 August, is on pages 2-4, together with a copy of your request. We have now included data we were unable to provide to you in our initial response, specifically data for question 2.

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 question 5 of your request. Please see further explanation on page 3.

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_19-221)

For each of the questions 1) to 5) below, please provide answers for each of the following academic years and also a figure for the total across all 5 years:

a) 2014/15

b) 2015/16

c) 2016/17

d) 2017/18

e) 2018 to date

Please note, to help with your search, the term 'allegation' refers to all formal and informal allegations, disclosures, complaints or reports.

1) Please provide the number of allegations of sexual misconduct (including rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment) made to the university by students, which involved other students or university employee

Our response is in table below:

<i>Academic Year</i>	<i>No. of allegations</i>
2018-19	34
2017-18	14
2016-17	20
2015-16	8
2014-15	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>77</i>

Please note that we have provided figures where the status of the perpetrator was known and was recorded during the report of the incident. In some cases there was no recorded information held wherein the alleged victim or person(s) reporting the incident knew the identity of the alleged perpetrator, and was recorded simply as unknown.

2) If possible, please give a breakdown of the number of these allegations which were specifically for rape or sexual assault

Our response is in the table below:

<i>Academic Year</i>	<i>No. of allegations</i>
2018-19	31
2017-18	13
2016-17	19
2015-16	8

2014-15	1
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3) How many of the allegations of sexual misconduct were subject to an internal investigation by the university?

Our response is in the table below:

<i>Academic Year</i>	<i>No. subjected to internal investigation</i>
2018-19	17
2017-18	10
2016-17	7
2015-16	2
2014-15	0

Please note that figures are those cases where a formal investigation was conducted on an employee, in line with our Human Resources Division (HRD) policy, and those cases, where a student was accused, that reached the Senate Student Disciplinary Committee (SSDC) stage. It is important to note that the perpetrator in any incident may not always be identified, or identify confirmed, and in some cases a victim may choose to not identify the victim (if identity known), which would not lead to any investigation or disciplinary action. A victim may also chose to drop an allegation or not wish to escalate an allegation to internal investigation, by the University, due to police involvement.

4) For each case, please give details of the outcome of the internal investigations and action taken by the university as a result

Our response is in the table below:

<i>Academic Year</i>	<i>Upheld</i>	<i>Denied</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
2018-19	3	4	10	1 Disciplinary action
2017-18	2	8	0	1 Student suspended for one semester
2016-17	2	5	0	1 Student permanently expelled 1 Formal written warning
2015-16	2	0	0	1 Informal action 1 Formal written warning
2014-15	0	0	0	N/A

Please note that a student may have left the University of their own accord following on from an upheld allegation, or as noted in our response to question 3 above, where a victim chose not to disclose the identity (if known) of the perpetrator then no disciplinary action can be taken against them.

5) How many of the allegations of sexual misconduct were passed by the university on to the police for them to investigate?

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

The University do not directly pass on reports to the police.

Can you also please provide:

A) The percentage of these complaints that were upheld across this 5 year period

B) The number of students excluded after an allegation was upheld against them across this 5 year period.

21.8% of complaints were upheld across the five year period.

One student was excluded after an allegation was upheld against them during the last five years.