

[REDACTED]

14 July 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_16-131)**

We have now considered your request of 27 June 2016 for the following information:

- *the number of sexual assaults reported to your university*

*Please provide the information for 2014, 2015 and 2016 to date, broken down by year.*

Our response is within the following table

Year	Number of assaults reported
2014	2
2015	23
2016 (to date)	17

Your request did not specify whether you were interested in assaults reported by staff, students or members of the public. We have therefore considered all three groups in our response, and have consulted our Dean of Students' Office, Human Resources Division and Security Services unit, although it should be noted that no incidents were reported to the Human Resources Division. Please note that there is no requirement for anyone to report an incident or allegation to University services and that incidents and allegations may be reported to one or all of these departments and their systems do not correspond.

In regards students, there are two University departments which would potentially hold information relevant to this question: the University's Security Service and our Dean of Students' Office (DOS). Staff-related incidents may potentially be reported to Security Services and / or our Human Resources division and incidents reported to the Security Services also potentially include members of the public.

In regards the reports submitted to the Dean of Students' Office, these are made up of Senior Resident reports and the number of unique individuals who are identified within our records as being a 'victim of sexual assault'. In the latter case, the numbers do not specify whether the assault took place on or off campus, against another student, or whether it includes historic incidents that have since been reported to / discussed with the University, or those perpetrated by a non-student.

There is also the possibility that an individual might report more than one instance of sexual assault and that the same individual may appear in 2 separate years.

The incidents reported by Security Services comprise reports of confirmed sexual contact but do not include instances of exposure.

The significant rise in reports of sexual assaults between 2014 and 2015 reflects high profile awareness-raising both on the part of the UEA Student Union and the University regarding zero tolerance for such incidents and the need to report them so appropriate action can be taken. The University and the Student Union have jointly taken a proactive stance in raising awareness of such offences and the need to report them. Our Vice-Chancellor Professor David Richardson is a member of the Universities UK taskforce on violence against women, harassment and hate crime and has taken a public stance of zero tolerance. The SU's "Never OK" awareness-raising campaign in 2015 also won the National Union of Students' Best Campaign award. The University welcomes the increased reporting as a positive sign that awareness has been raised and that there is greater recognition that such offences will not be tolerated.

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 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

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

Dave Palmer  
Information Policy and Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia