

FOIR (WDTK) - Serious incident statistics

By email: request-732413-033c3229@whatdotheyknow.com

30 March 2021

Dear FOIR (WDTK) - Serious incident statistics,

G00127: Freedom of Information Request

We refer to your request for information dated 01/03/2021 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"). Your question is set out below for ease of reference.

Question

I am requesting information pertaining to all serious incident investigations involving the health, wellbeing or welfare of one or more students - a 'serious incident' being an adverse event, with significant harmful or potentially harmful consequences - and/or where the effectiveness of the university response is likely to have a significant impact on the health, wellbeing or welfare of a student, their family and/or the community.

The need for a serious incident report is specifically recognised in UUK's Suicide-Safer Universities (2018) guidance.

It would be most useful if your reply could be comprehensive. The key factor in all cases is that the University conducted a serious incident investigation. It is not limited to serious incident investigations following the death of a student, or a student suicide, or conducted after a mental health incident (such as attempted suicide, near misses, parasuicide, and non suicidal self-injury), and whether in University owned property or not. Additionally, if you have records regarding students who were no longer registered with the University, but where you still carried out such an investigation, that information would also be of interest.

If you could provide the relevant numbers, subdivided according to any of the above and/or other categories, that would be extremely helpful.

So, for each of the academic periods 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21:

- a) How many serious incident investigations has the University of Southampton conducted?
- b) How many serious incident reports were produced?
- c) How many serious incidents involved a fatality?
- d) How many serious incident reports and/or their findings has the University of Southampton shared with other institutions?
- e) How many serious incident reports and/or their findings have other institutions shared with you?

In the case of (d) and (e), please specify the different types of institution that were involved in the sharing e.g., other university, UUK, NHS, PHE, Mental Health Trust, OfS, DfE, etc

Yours sincerely

Johanna Langheld

Request for clarification

We have reviewed your request and under [section 8\(c\)](#) of the Act we require more information to understand, what information you are requesting so that we can correctly identify whether we hold it.

1) In respect of your definition of "serious incidents", please clarify whether you mean:

- The number of incidents that have occurred where the incident took place whilst the individual was a student of the University and the incident caused (subjectively assessed) significant harm to that student; and
- The number of incidents that have occurred where the incident took place whilst the individual was a student of the University and the incident could cause (objectively assessed) a significant harm to that student;
- But in both the cases above only if the University's response after that incident could have a significant impact (both positive or negative) on the health, wellbeing or welfare of a student, their family and/or the community.

2) The UUK's Suicide-Safer Universities 2018 Guidance is specifically aimed at preventing student suicide and whilst you have quoted that in one section of your question you have gone on to state your question is not limited to an investigation following the death or suicide of a student nor a mental health incident. So, is it correct that you are not just looking for "incidents" such as death or suicide but are expecting the identification of all incidents which fall into category 1 above and death or suicide is only relevant for your question (c)?

3) In respect of question b) do you mean how many investigations resulted in a formal written report produced by University of Southampton staff?

4) In respect of questions d) and e) does this include how many anonymous reports/findings from questions a) and b) above were shared with other institutions by us or shared by other institutions with us respectively?

Once the request for information is clarified we will be able to process your request, however under [section 1\(3\)](#) of the Act we are not required to proceed with your request until such information is provided to us.

The 20 working day response time will not continue until we receive clarification of the information requested. If you do not clarify your request within 2 months, your request for information will be closed in accordance with the [Code of Practice](#).

Yours sincerely,

