

Johanna Langheld

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

26 July 2021

Dear Johanna Langheld,

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") for which we raised a request for clarification to which you subsequently responded on the 19th April 2021. We apologise for the delay in our response.

Please find below your question (as subsequently clarified), with the University's corresponding response.

Question (originally asked)

Dear University of Southampton,

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

Answer

In response to our clarifications you confirmed that the aim of your request was to “*generate as clear a picture as possible of the university sector's actions in relation to suicide prevention and monitoring*” however, you went on to state that you wanted the data for all serious incidents which went well beyond incidents of death, suicide or mental health problems and which required an assessment by the University of the incident in question.

This information you have requested is not held by the University but we have interpreted your questions to relate to and align with the UUK’s Suicide-Safer Universities (2018) guidance and our formal statutory obligations in that respect the information is as follows:

- a) The following number of incidents have been investigated:

2018-19: 3

2019-20: 3

2020-21: 1

- b) A report was produced for each incident investigated.
- c) They all involved a fatality.
- d) Over this period, we have shared 7 reports with the Health and Safety Executive, in respect of Coroner’s inquests.
- e) None.

If you do not feel that we have dealt with your request in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act, you may request a review. Your request for a review should specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) have not been met. Please address your request for a review by completing the [form](#) and selecting FoI Review.

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must sent within 40 working days of the date of this letter. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days. We will acknowledge your request for a review and endeavour to respond within 20 working days of its receipt but please note that a deadline for a review response is not prescribed by the Act.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for enforcing rights of access to information and the operation of the publication scheme. You may apply to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane,

Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally take action unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,

foi

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Response to Information provided by the University of Southampton
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/university_of_southampton