

Inzamam Rashid

By email: request-913997-adca8721@whatdotheyknow.com

6 December 2022

Dear Inzamam Rashid,

G01445: Freedom of Information Request

We refer to your request for information dated 04/11/2022 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act").

Please find below your question, with the University's corresponding response.

Question

Hello,

I hope you're well.

This is an FOI request to be used as part of a Sky News investigation.

We'd appreciate a response as soon as possible in order to include it as part of our TV & online story - many thanks .

- 1) Is your institution offering support to students to help with the rise in cost of living?
- 2) If yes, what is the specific support you're providing university students?
- 3) How many university students have you supported with the cost of living crisis in the last 6 months?

4) Roughly, what is the expenditure to the university for providing support to university students in the last 6 months?

I really look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,

Inzamam Rashid

Answer

In accordance with [Section 1\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Act, we confirm that the University holds the information of the description specified in your request.

1) Is your institution offering support to students to help with the rise in cost of living?

Yes, the University of Southampton already has a significant amount of Financial Support in place through our Student Support Fund and University of Southampton Bursary Programme awarding students over £6 million in 2021/22. In response to the increased costs of living this has been increased in the 2022/23 academic year.

The University has approved 2877 payments of over £4.8 million to students in the current academic year through our Southampton Bursary and Student Support Fund Programmes. In addition, we have allocated over £50,000 to support the cost of travel for 289 commuting students. This spend will continue to rise throughout the remainder of the academic year with an expected investment of over £6 million.

2) If yes, what is the specific support you're providing university students?

The University have increased the funding available for students in financial difficulty by £600,000 to £1.1 million in the 2022/23 academic year. This includes an uplift to our hardship fund, a dedicated fund to support with technology costs, support with travel costs for commuting students and a health and wellbeing fund. Students can also have fast access to super market vouchers 24/7 through our Financial Support and Wellbeing Teams.

The Students Union have also launched Food for All a new accessible food larder with free dry and long lasting food as well as hygiene products. In addition, we will be offering subsidised or free food on campus every day for students and staff.

3) How many university students have you supported with the cost of living crisis in the last 6 months?

The University have supported 221 students with funding since the beginning of the financial year in August 2022. This is students who applied for funding through the Student Support Fund and their situation may or may not be reacted directly to the rising costs of living.

4) Roughly, what is the expenditure to the university for providing support to university students in the last 6 months?

The University have awarded just over £250,000 to students since the beginning of the financial year in August 2022. Please note this is students who applied for funding through the Student Support Fund and their situation may or may not be reacted directly to the rising costs of living.

Additional expenditure to cover financial support staff, wellbeing staff and subsidised access to activities will lift this figure however would be difficult to provide specifically.

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 **must** specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act have not been met; mere dissatisfaction with our response is insufficient. Please address your request for a review by completing the [form](#) and selecting Fol Review.

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must be 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 act unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,

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