

Dear Applicant,

Freedom of Information request reference K/20/070

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 7 February 2020, reference K/20/070.

Your request read:

“I’m contacting all Russell Group universities (both the FOI Team and Press Office for each university), and would like to know if any of the university’s members of staff are trained as mental health First Aiders, such as the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) training offered by Papyrus, or any similar course.

Please could you let me know:

1. Are any of the university’s staff currently mental health First Aiders? If not, do you have plans to train them, and when will this happen?
2. How many staff are currently trained? What percentage of the workforce does this make up?
3. What training course(s) have they taken?
4. Who is the provider of that training (e.g. Papyrus, Samaritans, etc)?
5. What group(s) of staff are trained, and what is their role in students’ welfare? (e.g. perhaps security staff are trained because they are on-site at student residences, etc)
6. What led the university to decide to train staff in this way / why does the university feel this is important?
7. How can students identify trained staff if they need help?
8. Any other information you think is relevant / any other comment you wish to make”

Please note that we have interpreted your request to be in relation to Mental Health First Aiders throughout the staff body, rather than staff specifically employed to provide mental health support (e.g. in the student counselling team).

The University of Leeds does not currently appoint or train mental health advisers or Mental Health First Aiders. As such, we do not hold any of the requested information in respect of Mental Health Training. However, we take the issue of staff mental health very seriously and the University has an in-house staff counselling service. The service provides direct support for all staff with any mental health-related concerns or issues, and provides training on topics related to mental health including mindfulness, personal resilience and restorative skills, supporting people in distress, as well as bespoke consultancy and training. We have in October 2019 launched a series of guidance and support documents which are aimed at providing all leaders, managers and supervisors with the competencies required to support their staff’s mental health. In addition to this University-wide provision, basic and/or advanced mental health training has been undertaken locally within some areas, for example our residential services.

We also operate a [Student Counselling and Wellbeing](#) service, which provides support and assistance to students.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
Deputy Secretary
The University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University's response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer
Secretariat
University of Leeds