

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 12 November 2020 15:57

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/401)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/401)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 15 October 2020, reference K/20/401.

Your request read:

“1. How many students have a) self-isolated and b) been in quarantine since the start of term due to Covid-19? (The total number to date.) N.B. if the figures for those who are self-isolating and those in quarantine are recorded separately then please provide both totals.

2. What support has the university provided to students in quarantine or self-isolation due to Covid-19?

Does this support cover:

2.1 practical needs (food, etc?)

2.2 study needs (IT)

2.3 emotional needs (e.g. a 'buddy' system)

2.4. For each of the above (2.1-2.3) please provide details of the support provided. In the case of 2.1, is the university charging for food supplies, and, if so, how much?

3. What steps is the university taking to ensure that students who need to self-isolate or quarantine due to Covid-19 are doing so, including those living in private accommodation in the local community?

4. What penalties can the university impose on students for failing to follow its Covid-19 rules/guidelines, and other local and national pandemic restrictions?

5. How many students have faced disciplinary action for failing to follow the universities Covid-19 rules/guidelines, and other local and national pandemic restrictions?

5.1 How many students has the university fined for breaching the rules/guidelines?

5.2 What is the total value of those fines?

5.3 How many students have been suspended for breaching the rules/guidelines?

5.4 How many students have been expelled for breaching the rules/guidelines?

5.5 How many students have been removed from university accommodation for breaching the rules/guidelines?

6. How many mental health support staff do you have in your student support team (student services)?

6.1 How many of those are counsellors? (Please provide details of external counselling services available to students if this service is contracted out.)

7. What is the average (mean) and median current waiting time to see a counsellor?

7.1 How many students are currently waiting to see a counsellor?

8. How can students access university counselling and other mental health support services during the pandemic? Are you providing remote access to counselling, e.g. telephone or online?

9. Does the university provide Covid-19 testing for students?

10. Has the university conducted mass Covid-19 testing of asymptomatic students since the start of the new academic year?

10.1 If not, has mass testing of asymptomatic students been conducted by any other organisation? If yes, please specify which organisation.

11. Is the university regularly publishing the total number of students who have tested Covid-19 positive since the start of this term?

11.1 If the university has NOT published the total number of students to date who have tested Covid-19 positive since the start of term, please provide the current total figure.

12. What advice has the university received from the local authority and/or local/regional director of public health with regards to preventing the spread of Covid-19 from students to the local community?

12.1 What steps has the university taken in light of that advice?"

The University of Leeds holds some of this information.

For your convenience we have responded to each of your questions in turn below.

1. How many students have a) self-isolated and b) been in quarantine since the start of term due to Covid-19? (The total number to date.) N.B. if the figures for those who are self-isolating and those in quarantine are recorded separately then please provide both totals.

A total of 3,553 students have self-isolated in University residences (to 22 October 2020). This is a cumulative total; not all of these students will have been self-isolating at the same time.

The University of Leeds has not placed its students or halls of residence in quarantine or lockdown, whatever those terms might mean. Students living in University allocated accommodation are themselves responsible for following relevant national and local government guidelines, rules and the law.

2. **What support has the university provided to students in quarantine or self-isolation due to Covid-19?**
 - i practical needs (food, etc?)
 - ii study needs (IT)
 - iii emotional needs (e.g. a 'buddy' system)
 - iv **For each of the above (2.1-2.3) please provide details of the support provided. In the case of 2.1, is the university charging for food supplies, and, if so, how much?**

Information regarding the support we are providing to students who are required to self-isolate is available on our website via the following links:

- [Creating a relaxed, safe environment](#)
- [Self-isolation Guidance and Support](#)
- [Self-isolating in Residences](#)
- [Statistics and Support Available](#)

We are not charging students who are self-isolating for food packages.

3. **What steps is the university taking to ensure that students who need to self-isolate or quarantine due to Covid-19 are doing so, including those living in private accommodation in the local community?**

The University of Leeds has not placed its halls of residence in quarantine or lockdown. Students living in University allocated accommodation are themselves responsible for following relevant national and local government guidelines, rules and the law.

The above stated, the University cannot and will not ignore student behaviour that puts the health, safety or welfare of others at risk and it reserves that it will take appropriate disciplinary action to address any such situation.

Our accommodation contract 'General terms and conditions 2020/21', puts the following relevant requirements on students living in University allocated accommodation in respect of Covid-19.

- *You must comply with the reasonable requirements of our staff with regard to matters of health and safety, and comply with applicable health and safety regulations and policies. You must not do anything that is likely to put the health, safety or welfare of others at risk. During the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic each individual is responsible for ensuring that they comply with all applicable UK Government regulations and guidance relating to socialising and separation.*
- *It is your obligation to keep yourself informed of, and comply with, regulations and guidance issued by the UK Government from time to time for the management and control of Covid-19 (Coronavirus). Some breaches of regulations constitute an offence for which you could be prosecuted and fined. You may also be subject to action under our disciplinary regulations,*

which could lead to a fine and/or termination of your accommodation contract and or suspension from the University and/or expulsion from the University.

- *You must comply with social or physical distancing and other guidance aimed at preventing the spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus), whether issued by us or the UK Government or one of its agencies. Failure to follow this guidance may lead to disciplinary proceedings being taken against you. Failing to follow regulations may lead to you being prosecuted and fined.*
- 4. What penalties can the university impose on students for failing to follow its Covid-19 rules/guidelines, and other local and national pandemic restrictions?**

Please refer to the [General University Disciplinary Regulations](#)

- 5. How many students have faced disciplinary action for failing to follow the universities Covid-19 rules/guidelines, and other local and national pandemic restrictions?**
- i How many students has the university fined for breaching the rules/guidelines?**
 - ii What is the total value of those fines?**

The University is advising and encouraging all members of the university community to follow relevant national and local government guidelines, rules and the law. It is for students (and staff) to ensure they follow the relevant rules, with the University taking appropriate disciplinary action where any failures to follow rules, laws and guidelines constitute breaches of our own disciplinary regulations.

Since the beginning of the new academic year, 148 incidents relating to covid-19 guidelines have been reported to us. All incidents will be investigated with appropriate and proportionate action taken as deemed necessary. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 107 warnings and 343 fines have been issued to students for breaches of the [General University Disciplinary Regulations](#). However, these totals include disciplinary matters which are unrelated to coronavirus (e.g. noise complaints) and we cannot disaggregate these figures. As such, we cannot advise on the number of covid-related incidents which have resulted in particular disciplinary action.

- iii How many students have been suspended for breaching the rules/guidelines?**

None

- iv How many students have been expelled for breaching the rules/guidelines?**

None

- v How many students have been removed from university accommodation for breaching the rules/guidelines?**

None

- 6. How many mental health support staff do you have in your student support team (student services)?**
- i How many of those are counsellors? (Please provide details of external counselling services available to students if this service is contracted out.)**

There are 27 members of staff in our Student Counselling and Wellbeing Team. Of these, 15 have job titles which include the word 'counsellor'.

- 7. What is the average (mean) and median current waiting time to see a counsellor?**
- i How many students are currently waiting to see a counsellor?**

No students are currently waiting to see a counsellor. All routine initial appointments are booked within a three-week window. At the point where all available initial appointments have been booked within the three weeks available, a waiting list is created. So far this academic year we have not need to start a waiting list for counselling appointments.

- 8. How can students access university counselling and other mental health support services during the pandemic? Are you providing remote access to counselling, e.g. telephone or online?**

We are providing remote access to wellbeing services, via Zoom and/or by phone (as per the students' choice).

- 9. Does the university provide Covid-19 testing for students?**

Students can access an NHS walk-through testing site at the Gryphon Sports Centre, and as such there is no need for the University to provide separate testing.

- 10. Has the university conducted mass Covid-19 testing of asymptomatic students since the start of the new academic year?**
- i If not, has mass testing of asymptomatic students been conducted by any other organisation? If yes, please specify which organisation.**

No mass testing has been conducted by the University, either directly or via a third party on our behalf.

- 11. Is the university regularly publishing the total number of students who have tested Covid-19 positive since the start of this term?**
- i If the university has NOT published the total number of students to date who have tested Covid-19 positive since the start of term, please provide the current total figure.**

Yes – this information is available on [our website](#)

12. What advice has the university received from the local authority and/or local/regional director of public health with regards to preventing the spread of Covid-19 from students to the local community?

i What steps has the university taken in light of that advice?

We have followed assiduously the advice issued by the Government and public health authorities, which has informed the material we make available to our students at: <https://coronavirus.leeds.ac.uk/student-advice>

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