Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 25 January 2021, reference K/21/046. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in providing a response to your request.

Your request read:

“For both the 2019/20 academic year and the current academic year, please could you tell me:

1. Your total spending on mental health services for students
   a. For this question, please provide the budget for the university’s counselling/wellbeing services, along with a very brief outline of the services included in this budget. If you are not able to provide a specific budget for the university’s counselling/wellbeing services, please provide details of the university’s student support budget, with spending broken down by area - to allow me to identify which parts of this wider budget are relevant.
2. The waiting time for a student to get a counselling appointment with your university mental health services
3. The total number of students enrolled at your university
4. The total number of students who have applied to use the university’s counselling services
5. The number of students who have been turned away/not given an appointment after applying to use the university counselling services

Please provide separate answers for each year, not a combination of both. For the current academic year, please provide budgeted/forecasted spend for question 1, and current waiting times for question 2.

For the avoidance of doubt, ‘students’ is referring to all students at the university - UG and PG.”

The University of Leeds holds this information.

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

1. Your total spending on mental health services for students. For this question, please provide the budget for the university’s counselling/wellbeing services, along with a very brief outline of the services included in this budget. If you are not able to provide a specific budget for the university’s counselling/wellbeing
services, please provide details of the university’s student support budget, with spending broken down by area - to allow me to identify which parts of this wider budget are relevant.

In 2019/20, the total spend on counselling, mental health and wellbeing services for students was £852,839.93

In 2020/21, the total spend on counselling, mental health and wellbeing services for students to December 2020 is £391,157.59

An overview of the services we provide can be found on our website.

2. The [current] waiting time for a student to get a counselling appointment with your university mental health services

It may be helpful if we first provide some general information about how counselling appointments are booked.

Counselling appointments are booked two to three weeks in advance. As such, the average waiting time for an appointment over an academic year is two to three weeks (although there will be peaks and troughs reflective of demand throughout the year).

Waiting times depend on the type of appointment. We offer 30 same day/Drop-In appointments weekly, bookable each morning from 9am. This academic year there has only been two occasions when all six drop in sessions were filled in a day; otherwise there has been daily availability throughout. In addition, between 20 and 30 rapid access priority wellbeing, counselling and mental health appointments are available weekly. These appointments are booked within 24 to 72 hours of students contacting us. Routine appointments are booked up to three weeks in advance.

Students who are waiting for routine appointments are contacted on a rolling basis as each week new appointments become available. No one on has waited more than seven working days to be contacted with the offer of an appointment this academic session, with all students waiting offered Same Day Drop In sessions while they wait.

3. The total number of students enrolled at your university

We run student censuses on 1 December each year.

In December 2019 (i.e. in the 2019/20 academic year), a total of 39,173 students were registered at the University of Leeds.

In December 2020 (i.e. in the 2020/21 academic year), a total of 35,373 students were registered at the University of Leeds.

4. The total number of students who have applied to use the university’s counselling services

Self Referrals
5. The number of students who have been turned away/not given an appointment after applying to use the university counselling services

We do not turn away students who have contacted the Counselling and Wellbeing Service. We offer all students who submit a self-referral form at least one individual appointment. We do, however, signpost and refer out to other services, to ensure students receive the correct support and/or treatment.

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.

Yours sincerely

**Chloe Wilkins**
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds