From: Freedom of Information
Sent: 12 March 2021 15:46
To: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/090)

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/090)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/090)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 14 February 2021, reference K/21/090.

Your request read:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request that you provide me with the following information relating to student reports of sexual assault, rapes, drink spiking and domestic abuse, made against both staff and other students at your university during the last 5 years i.e 2016 to 2020, with a breakdown of data for each year of the 5 year period.

First Section: Sexual assault and rape

1: How many reports of sexual assault and rape have been made by students to your university against a. other students and b. other staff?

2: How many of these reports have led to the accused being investigated by your university?

3: How many investigations of these reports have led to disciplinary action of the accused?

4: How many investigations of these reports have led to expulsion of the accused?

5: How many of these investigations have been referred to police?

6: Out of those who reported allegations, how many victims were offered counselling by the university?

Second Section: Drink spiking

1: How many reports of suspected drink spiking have been made by students to your university?

2: How many of these reports have been investigated by your university?

3: How many investigations of these reports have led to disciplinary action of the suspect?

4: How many investigations of these reports have led to expulsion of the suspect?

5: How many of these investigations have been referred to police?

6: Out of those who reported allegations, how many victims were offered counseling by the university?
Third Section: domestic abuse
1: How many students have sought help and reported to your university that they are in an abusive or controlling relationship?
2: How many of these reports have been investigated by your university?
3: How many investigations of these reports have led to disciplinary action of the accused?
4: How many investigations of these reports have led to expulsion of the accused?
5: How many of these investigations have been referred to police?
6: Out of those who reported allegations, how many victims were offered counseling by the university?”

The University of Leeds holds some of this information.

Sexual assault and rape

1. How many reports of sexual assault and rape have been made by students to your university against
   a. other students and
   b. other staff?

Accusations of sexual assault made against other students are handled by the Student Cases Team. Accusations made against members of staff are handled by HR.

Reports about other students
The information held by the Student Cases Team is limited to the academic year 2018/19 onwards. As such, we cannot provide any information in relation to student/student reports for the academic years 2015/16, 2016/17 or 2017/18.

In 2018/19, a total of 10 reports were made. In 2019/20, a further 10 reports were made.

Reports about members of staff
Please find the number of reports received by HR set out in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic year</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How many of these reports have led to the accused being investigated by your university?

All reports made to the University are investigated as necessary.

3. How many investigations of these reports have led to disciplinary action of the accused?
4. How many investigations of these reports have led to expulsion of the accused?

We address these questions together.

Reports about other students
We consider that to provide outcomes information broken down by year would risk the identification of the student(s) party to the incidents. This would be extremely unfair, and would undermine the reporting process. We are therefore withholding a per-year breakdown of outcomes under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if it is the personal data of someone other than the person making the request, and disclosure would; contravene the data protection principles; contravene an objection to processing; or if the data is exempt from the right of subject access.

Outcomes across all 20 cases are set out in the table below. Please note that one case may have multiple outcomes (e.g. a suspension and a no contact agreement, or a support meeting and an apology), and as such the count below exceeds the total number of cases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apology from Accused</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint withdrawn</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting to provide support</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-contact agreement</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accused excluded</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accused suspended</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accused withdrew from university</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referred into other service (not suitable for management by Student Cases Team)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No action taken (e.g. no evidence provided by complainant)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reports about members of staff
As in the case of reports against students, we consider that to release the outcomes of each case on a per-year basis would be likely to identify people associated with the complaint. We are therefore withholding the per-year breakdown under section 40(2) as outlined above. Outcomes across all five cases are set out in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff member dismissed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff member resigned</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff member disciplined in line with the Disciplinary Procedure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. How many of these investigations have been referred to police?

The University of Leeds does not refer complaints to the police. Individuals who make reports to the University will be offered appropriate signposting advice, which may include to the police, but it would be inappropriate for the University to take the decision to involve the police; this is a decision which appropriately and necessarily sits with the reporting individual.

6. Out of those who reported allegations, how many victims were offered counselling by the university?

As above, individuals who make reports to the University will be offered appropriate signposting advice, which includes signposting to counselling and wellbeing services. However, we do not keep a record of how many individuals were specifically signposted to counselling services.

Drink spiking

The University does not separately categorise complaints of drink spiking. As such, we do not hold any information regarding the questions set out in this part of your request.

Domestic abuse

1. How many students have sought help and reported to your university that they are in an abusive or controlling relationship?
2. How many of these reports have been investigated by your university?
3. How many investigations of these reports have led to disciplinary action of the accused?
4. How many investigations of these reports have led to expulsion of the accused?
5. How many of these investigations have been referred to police?
6. Out of those who reported allegations, how many victims were offered counselling by the university?

We have received one report of domestic abuse in the timeframe of your request.

We are withholding further information under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if it is the personal data of someone other than the person making the request, and disclosure would; contravene the data protection principles; contravene an objection to processing; or if the data is exempt from the right of subject access. Members of the university community expect complaints and reports of abuse such as this to be handled confidentially and sensitively. It would be grossly unfair to release information which could lead to the identification of individuals associated with an alleged incident. Disclosure of the year(s) in which these alleged incidents occurred, the nature of the investigations carried out, and the outcome of the incident would therefore contravene data protection principles, and the information is therefore exempt under section 40(2).
In relation to question five, as above we can advise that the University of Leeds does not refer complaints to the police. In relation to question six, all complainants are signposted to services, which may include counselling, as appropriate.

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