

From: [removed] **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information

Sent: 28 June 2021 09:32

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/192)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/192)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 13 April 2021, reference K/21/192. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Your request read:

“I am making the following request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please could you tell me:

Does the university employ dedicated staff to investigate reports of sexual assault/sexual misconduct?

If yes

- How many, and what is their salary?
- What is their remit? Is it solely to investigate sexual assault/misconduct or to investigate all kinds of disciplinary procedures
- When were the positions introduced?

If no:

- Which staff are used to investigate reports of sexual assault/misconduct?
- Does the university use an external company to investigate reports of sexual assault/sexual misconduct?
- If so, what is the name of the company, and how much has been paid by the university to the company? And how much is forecast to be paid this academic year?
- Is payment done on a per-case basis, or an overall periodic fee?”

Upon further request for clarification, you specified:

“Thanks for coming back to me. It relates to staff employed to investigate student sexual assault.

That said, if there are staff employed to specifically investigate/deal with both staff and student sexual assault, please let me know as that would be useful for my request.”

The University of Leeds holds some of this information. We have provided responses to each of your questions, as they apply to the information we hold, in turn below.

Does the University employ dedicated staff to investigate reports of sexual assault and misconduct?

No.

Which staff are used to investigate reports of sexual assault/misconduct?

It is important to note that the University of Leeds does not investigate the incidents of sexual assault/misconduct themselves. Investigations of this nature may be carried out by the police, if requested by the victim. It would be inappropriate for the University to refer matters of this nature to the police; this would be a decision for the victim(s) to make.

Complaints associated with incidents of sexual assault/misconduct which are made against students (i.e. the student is the alleged perpetrator) are investigated by trained governance officers. Complaints made against members of staff are investigated by managers and Human Resources (HR) in accordance with University policies.

Does the university use an external company to investigate reports of sexual assault/sexual misconduct?

No.

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.