Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/224)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 7 May 2021, reference K/21/224. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in providing a response to your request.

Your request read:

“Please could you tell me, by year for the past five full academic years (2015/16 - 2019/20):
1. The total number of reported incidents of homophobia reported by students to your university
2. The total number of these incidents that were investigated
3. The outcomes of these investigations, if any (please also indicate if no further action was taken)”

The University of Leeds holds some information relevant to your request.

Incidents of homophobia may be reported to the University either as a formal complaint, or via our online reporting tool. Reports made via the reporting tool are made anonymously, can be submitted by anyone (not just the individual(s) targeted) and there is no obligation for reporters to submit a formal complaint associated with their report.

We do not immediately investigate reports made via the online tool. This is not the intention of the reporting system, and the anonymous nature of the tool means that it would not typically be possible for us to follow up on the reports which are made. Reporters are made aware of this, and are provided with advice and guidance on how to submit a formal complaint if they would like the incident to be investigated further.

As such, the information we hold is split into two categories; reports of homophobia, and complaints related to homophobia. In both cases, the information we hold dates back only as far as the 2018/19 academic year; we do not hold information in relation to earlier years.

In 2018/19, there was one report of homophobic graffiti on the University campus made via the online reporting tool. In 2020/21, two reports of homophobia were made via the online reporting tool. Out of those, one report was in regard to homophobic terms used in a group chat. The other report complained of the posting of homophobic tweets. Although none of these complaints were pursued formally, we did of course take any obvious corrective action, such as removing the offensive graffiti.
There have been no formal complaints of homophobia received since 2018/19, and as such no associated investigations or outcomes.

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