Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/189 and K/21/344)

I am writing regarding your Freedom of Information request dated 10 April 2021. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request, which was due to an unexpected and extended period of staff absence. When you wrote to the University of Leeds on 9 July 2021 to chase your response, I reviewed our mailbox and was unable to locate your original email. As such, your questions were allocated a second reference number; K/21/344. This was an error, for which I apologise. This email sets out our response to your request.

Your request read:

“From the start of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic to [Easter 2021]:
1. How many fines has the University issued to students and staff (please differentiate) for breaching coronavirus safety rules and regulations (please broadly categorise what fines was for, e.g. illegal gatherings, if possible)
2. What was the range in amount of these fines (highest and lowest)
3. What was the total value of all of these fines combined
4. IF it does not exceed the cost limit, how many of these fines were paid & how many appealed (please indicate status of appeal: successful, unsuccessful, ongoing)
5. IF it does not exceed the cost limit and this information is held, how many fines were issued to students and staff by the police
6. Excluding fines, how many students and staff have had disciplinary action taken against them by the University for breaching coronavirus rules and regulations, and what general punishments were issued in each case (e.g. short suspension, long suspension, expelled, etc)
7. IF it does not exceed the cost limit, how many illegal gatherings on campus have been shut down by university security or the police
8. IF it does not exceed the cost limit, how many reports of breaches of coronavirus regulations has the University received from students, staff and members of the public.

Definitions and notes:

Please note the scope of this request is since the coronavirus pandemic began up to present (for example, up to Easter 2021). By 'coronavirus regulations', I am referring to the University's internal policies on coronavirus safety, as well as the local/national official rules during this period. Questions 4, 5, 7 and 8 should only be left out if they exceed the time/cost limit in the Act. I seek the above information in table format broken down, if possible, by month. If a monthly breakdown is not possible, termly breakdowns suffice.”
The University of Leeds holds some of this information.

Question eight alone would exceed the time/cost appropriate limit, and as such we have not included it in our response, as per your instruction. Our answers to the remaining questions are set out below.

1. **How many fines has the University issued to students and staff (please differentiate) for breaching coronavirus safety rules and regulations (please broadly categorise what fines was for, e.g. illegal gatherings, if possible)**

From September 2020 until 5 April 2021 (i.e. Easter 2021 as per your request), the total number of fines that have been issued to students, (excluding successful appeals) is 819. These were issued for;
- gathering outside in the grounds of a residence site in a group of more than six persons without social distancing
- not wearing a face covering in indoor communal areas of residences
- hosting a party or social gathering
- attending a party or social gathering
- deliberate or intentional failure to follow social distancing guidelines e.g. visiting other households or deliberately and/or frequently failing to respect social distancing rules/guidelines in common /public areas

We have not issued any fines to staff.

2. **What was the range in amount of these fines (highest and lowest)**

Fines ranged from £25 to £100.

3. **What was the total value of all of these fines combined.**

The total value of fines combined (excluding successful appeals) is £56,185.

4. **IF it does not exceed the cost limit, how many of these fines were paid & how many appealed (please indicate status of appeal: successful, unsuccessful, ongoing)**

A total of 111 students appealed. Of these, 48 were upheld, 21 were partially upheld and 48 were dismissed.

5. **IF it does not exceed the cost limit and this information is held, how many fines were issued to students and staff by the police**

The University of Leeds does not hold this information. This information may be held by [West Yorkshire Police](#).

6. **Excluding fines, how many students and staff have had disciplinary action taken against them by the University for breaching coronavirus**
rules and regulations, and what general punishments were issued in each case (e.g. short suspension, long suspension, expelled, etc).

A total of 61 students have been seen at a Residences Disciplinary Committee or a University Committee. The general punishments that were issued include;
- removal from residences
- temporary suspension from their programme of study
- temporary suspension from campus

We have not taken any disciplinary action against staff.

7. **IF it does not exceed the cost limit, how many illegal gatherings on campus have been shut down by university security or the police**

In relation to action taken by security, we can advise that we have 222 records of noise/party complaints. However, our records do not show whether these constitute “illegal gatherings shut down by security”.

The University of Leeds does not hold information in relation to the number of gatherings shut down by police. This information may be held by West Yorkshire Police.

8. **IF it does not exceed the cost limit, how many reports of breaches of coronavirus regulations has the University received from students, staff and members of the public.**

To respond to this question would exceed the appropriate limit set out at section 12 of the FOI Act. Therefore, as per your instruction we have not included a response.

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