

Michael Conway

11 July 2019

Our Ref: FOI 2019/254-F1203114

Dear Mr Conway,

Re: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Request for Information

Thank you for your email which was received by the University on 14 June 2019 timed 16:38 hours, requesting the following information:

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- 1. For each of the past ten academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many University of Glasgow students have died while a student at the university?**
 - 2. Please provide, if possible, a breakdown by gender for each year.**
 - 3. For each of the past ten academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many University of Glasgow students have committed suicide while a student at the university?**
 - 4. The university's rationale behind choosing to record or not to record student suicides.**
 - 5. University policy regarding all actions the university take after a student commits suicide**
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University's Response

- 1. For each of the past ten academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many University of Glasgow students have died while a student at the university?**
- 2. Please provide, if possible, a breakdown by gender for each year.**

Year	Female Headcount	Male Headcount
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	1	0
2010-11	0	0
2011-12	2	1
2012-13	3	3

DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICE

University of Glasgow, Tay House, Glasgow G12 8QQ

Data Protection: Telephone: 0141-330-3111 E-Mail: dp@gla.ac.uk

Freedom of Information: Telephone: 0141-330-2523 E-Mail: foi@gla.ac.uk

The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401

2013-14	4	5
2014-15	1	3
2015-16	1	3
2016-17	1	5
2017-18	2	5
2018-19	2	2

3. For each of the past ten academic years (2008-09 to 2018-19), how many University of Glasgow students have committed suicide while a student at the university?

The University of Glasgow does not hold the information that you have requested and is not aware of any other public authority that could respond to your request. Section 17 of FOISA states that where public authorities receive requests for information that they do not hold, they must issue a notice advising that they do not hold the requested information.

When the University's Registry is notified of the death of a student they mark the student record as deceased and inform the relevant members of staff including Principal's Office, Clerk of Senate, Secretary of Court, Head of the Staff and Student Support Group and the University Chaplaincy. The death is recorded with a general code in the system; the University does not keep statistics or details about the nature of the death.

4. The university's rationale behind choosing to record or not to record student suicides.

It has been University policy over a number of years not to record the cause of death of any student who died, and to focus solely on offering and delivering pastoral and wellbeing support to the bereaved family and students and staff who may be affected by a student death. This avoids causing additional distress to a family and the student community. People who end their lives do so for many reasons which can be complex and research shows the decision to enact a suicide plan may have been reached over a number of years. It would not be helpful to families or students to speculate on any cause of death.

5. University policy regarding all actions the university take after a student commits suicide

Guidance for staff regarding a student death is currently under review.

The supply of documents under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not give the applicant or whoever receives the information any right to re-use it in such a way that might infringe the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (for example, by making multiple copies, publishing or otherwise distributing the information to other individuals and the public). The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2004 ensured that Section 50 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 ("CDPA") applies to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("FOISA").

Breach of copyright law is an actionable offence and the University expressly reserves its rights and remedies available to it pursuant to the CDPA and common law. Further information on copyright is available at the following website:

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/copy.htm>

Your right to seek a review

Should you be dissatisfied with the way in which the University has dealt with your request, you have the right to require us to review our actions and decisions. If you wish to request a review, please contact the University Deputy Secretary, University Court Office, Gilbert Scott Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland G12 8QQ or e-mail: foi@gla.ac.uk within 40 working days. Your request must be in a recordable format (letter, email, audio tape, etc). You will receive a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of its receipt.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for review you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your complaint to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving the response to review letter. The Commissioner's Office may be contacted as follows:

Online Appeal Service:

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

By post:

The Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

An appeal, on a point of law, to the Court of Session may be made against a decision by the Commissioner.

For further information on the review procedure please refer to

(<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/dpfoioffice/policiesandprocedures/foisa-complaintsandreview/>)

All complaints regarding requests for information will be handled in accordance with this procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office