Request Reference: 3120

FOI Request dated 21/03/2024

Request –

As a freedom of information request, please provide data regarding students suspended and permanently expelled. Specifically, please provide the following for each academic year from 2012/13 to 2022/23, and so far in the current academic year:
- For each year, the total number of students suspended and the total number expelled
- For each year, the total number suspended split by reason for suspension
- For each year, the total number expelled split by reason for expulsion
- For each year, the number referred to the police.

Please provide such data electronically, ideally as a spreadsheet or table. If data is not available for that entire period, please provide it from the earliest date available till the most recent at the point of production. Furthermore, if you fear there is a risk that disclosing a specific number could risk identifying an individual, you can instead say "fewer than 5", or provide a similar range that would give appropriate anonymity.

Response

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

To retrieve data relevant to this request, related to the faculties, would require a manual check of records retrieved and each record would need to be checked for accuracy, exceeding 18 hours work. Therefore, s12 of the Act applies.

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Under section 12(1), a public authority is not compelled to fulfil a request for information if it anticipates that the cost associated with compliance would surpass the defined 'appropriate limit' (set at 18 hours).

The time estimations for our calculations include:
• Determining if the information is held;
• Locating the information or a document containing it;
• Retrieving the information or a document containing it; and

• Extracting the information from a document containing it.

However, the following activities are not factored into our calculations:
• The time spent identifying information subject to exemption.
• The time devoted to the redaction process.

This communication serves as a refusal notice in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act, which stipulates that a public authority, relying on the applicability of section 12, must notify the applicant of this fact within the stipulated timeframe for complying with section 1(1).

While the excess cost relieves the University of its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have, as a goodwill gesture, provided information relevant to your request. This information was retrieved or available before it was determined that the cost limit would be exceeded. I hope this is beneficial, but it does not alter our legal right to rely on the fee regulations for the remainder of your request.

The below relates to Student Misconduct outcomes only. Our records only go back to 2015/16. The University has not made any referrals to the police. This does not include outcomes for students who are no longer registered with the University at the time of the panel hearing, or precautionary suspensions (pending outcome).

2015/16	Suspensions – 0	
	Expulsions - 0	
2016/17	Suspensions – 0	
	Expulsions - 0	
2017/18	Suspensions – 0	
	Expulsions - 0	
2018/19	Suspensions – 0	
	Expulsions - 0	
2019/20	Suspensions – <5	Sexual Misconduct
	Expulsions - 0	
2020/21	Suspension - <5	Abusive Behaviour
	Expulsion –<5	Taking property without consent
2021/22	Suspension – <5	Physical Misconduct
	Expulsion – <5	Physical Misconduct
2022/23	Suspension - <5	Sexual Misconduct Abusive Behaviour
	Expulsion - <5	Sexual Misconduct Operational Obstruction

**Please note where figures are low, we have rounded to the nearest 5 to prevent identification.*