



UNIVERSITY
of HULL

Request Reference: 3462

FOI Request dated 21/07/2025 –

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information regarding how your university handles and records disclosures of harmful practices from staff or students, specifically related to:

- *Forced marriage*
- *Honour-based abuse or violence*
- *Female genital mutilation (FGM)*

Please provide answers to the following questions for both staff as victims/survivors and student victims/survivors:

1. Disclosure Recording

- a. *Does your university formally record disclosures or reports related to forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM?*
- b. *Are these types of disclosures recorded separately if not recorded using a centralised reporting tool?*
- c. *Are specific categories or flags used in your reporting systems to record these harmful practices if they are not specifically named as forced marriage, honour based abuse and female genital mutilation?*

2. Volume of Disclosures

For each academic year from 2019–20 to 2023–24, please provide the number of disclosures or reports received relating to:

- *Forced marriage*
- *Honour-based abuse or violence*
- *Female genital mutilation (FGM)*

3. Response Process

- a. *Does your university use a risk assessment tool when these disclosures are made? If so, please name the tool or describe the process.*
- b. *Is there a formal internal process or procedure in place for managing such disclosures?*

4. Training

- a. *Do staff receive any training specifically related to forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM?*
- b. *If so, is the training mandatory? What is the frequency and delivery method (e.g. online module, in-person workshop)?*
- c. *Are any staff trained specifically to support other staff or students in relation to these issues?*

5. Awareness-Raising

- a. *Does the university engage in awareness-raising activities around these harmful practices (e.g. events, campaigns, training)?*

b. Are these standalone initiatives or tied to national awareness campaigns (e.g. UK FGM Awareness Day, National Safeguarding Week)?

6. Support for Students and Staff

a. What type of support is offered to students and staff who disclose experiences related to forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM (e.g. counselling, safeguarding referrals, academic support, discretionary funding, work-related support, on-campus accommodation)?

b. If yes, are students and staff aware such of such provisions, including those staff members who are supporting the student/staff member making the disclosure?

c. Are there dedicated support staff or services for this purpose?

7. Policies and Procedures

If available, please provide copies of any relevant internal policies, procedures, staff guidance, or training materials related to the handling of forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM disclosures.

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.

Q2 would require a manual review of each student's individual case file, of which there are thousands, to determine which individuals disclosed/reported those listed in your request. 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 fulfill 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.

- a. Does your university formally record disclosures or reports related to forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM? **Yes**
- b. Are these types of disclosures recorded separately if not recorded using a centralised reporting tool? **They are recorded separately within each student's individual electronic case file.**
- c. Are specific categories or flags used in your reporting systems to record these harmful practices if they are not specifically named as forced marriage, honour based abuse and female genital mutilation? **No**

3. Response Process

- a. Does your university use a risk assessment tool when these disclosures are made? If so, please name the tool or describe the process. **Risk assessments are undertaken on a case-by-case basis, using no specific named tool. Registered mental health nurses and social workers review the situation, including any exacerbating and mitigating factors, before deciding next steps. All cases involving disclosures of this nature would be discussed at our weekly Student at Risk meeting and documented accordingly.**
- b. Is there a formal internal process or procedure in place for managing such disclosures? **No**

4. Training

- a. Do staff receive any training specifically related to forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM? **No**
- b. If so, is the training mandatory? What is the frequency and delivery method (e.g. online module, in-person workshop)? **N/A**
- c. Are any staff trained specifically to support other staff or students in relation to these issues? **No**

6. Support for Students and Staff

- a. What type of support is offered to students and staff who disclose experiences related to forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM (e.g. counselling, safeguarding referrals, academic support, discretionary funding, work-related support, on-campus accommodation)? **Support offered could include, counselling, safeguarding referrals, assistance in reporting to the police, liaison with our on-campus security team, accommodation, liaison with specialist services.**
- b. If yes, are students and staff aware such of such provisions, including those staff members who are supporting the student/staff member making the disclosure? **Staff are informed and encouraged to raise the concern to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team who would then risk assess and offer support accordingly.**
- c. Are there dedicated support staff or services for this purpose? **Yes, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team support students disclosing these issues, however that is not their sole remit.**

7. Policies and Procedures

If available, please provide copies of any relevant internal policies, procedures, staff guidance, or training materials related to the handling of forced marriage, honour-based abuse, or FGM disclosures. - [Safeguarding Policy \[v8-03\]](#)