19 April 2016

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information request received on 8 April 2016 about ‘smart drugs’.

I can confirm that the University does not hold the information requested, in terms of section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Your enquiry and the University’s response.

1. Is the University aware of students taking so-called “smart drugs” such as Ritalin, Modafinil and Adderall, to enhance their performance in academic work and examinations? Please provide me with any email communications/ statements sent by the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor or any other member of the senior leadership team, to the student body on this matter and/ or that include the words “prescription drugs”, “Ritalin”, “Modafinil”, “Adderall”, “performance enhancers” or “cognitive enhances”.

   Nil return.

2. Has this University, since the year 2012, considered drug testing its students before they sit exams, to test for performance enhancing drugs such as Ritalin, Modafinil and Adderall? Please provide me with any email communications/ statements sent by the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor or any other member of the senior leadership team, to the student body on this matter and/ or communications that include the words “prescription drugs”, “drug testing”.

   Nil return.

3. If the University has not yet considered drug-testing students for performance enhancing drugs such as Ritalin, Modafinil and Adderall, do you have any plans to do so? Please provide me with any email communications relating to this matter and/ or email exchanges containing the words “prescription drugs”, “drug testing”, “smart drugs”, "Ritalin", "Modafinil" and "Adderall".

   Nil return.

4. Finally, what is the University’s official statement on the use of performance drugs by students to aid their academic performance? Does the University consider the use of prescription drugs cheating? Please provide me with any email communications relating to this matter and/ or email exchanges between the University’s leadership team and the student body.

   Nil return.
This concludes the University’s response.

Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with our response or our reasoning set-out above, you have 40 working days in which to require a review of our decision. Any such request should be put in writing and should be sent to the University Secretary, Abertay University, at the address provided below. The request should:

(a) detail your request for a review of our decision to be undertaken
(b) describe the nature of your original request
(c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response

University Secretary
Abertay University
Bell Street
Dundee
DD1 1HD
Tel (01382) 308016

E-mail: S.Stewart@abertay.ac.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with, you also have the right, in terms of section 47 of FOISA and within 6 months, to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether we have handled your request properly.

Information relating to your right to seek review is available from the Scottish Information Commissioner’s website:

http://www.itstpublicknow ledge.info

or by contacting the Scottish Information Commissioner’s Office at the following address:

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

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

E-mail: mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Website: http://www.itstpublicknowledge.info

If you are unhappy with the Commissioner’s decision, you also have the right to appeal further to the Court of Session, on a point of law only, under section 56 of FOISA. Please refer to the Commissioner’s website (details above) for further information about your right of appeal to the Court of Session.

Yours sincerely,
Abertay University is a registered Scottish charity, no. SC016040