



9 February 2016

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information revised request received on 26 January 2016 about counselling.

I can confirm that the University holds some of the information requested and is releasing this to you in full where it is held; or alternatively the nearest equivalent information which is held has been provided. Where information is not held, this is in terms of section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Your enquiry and the University's response.

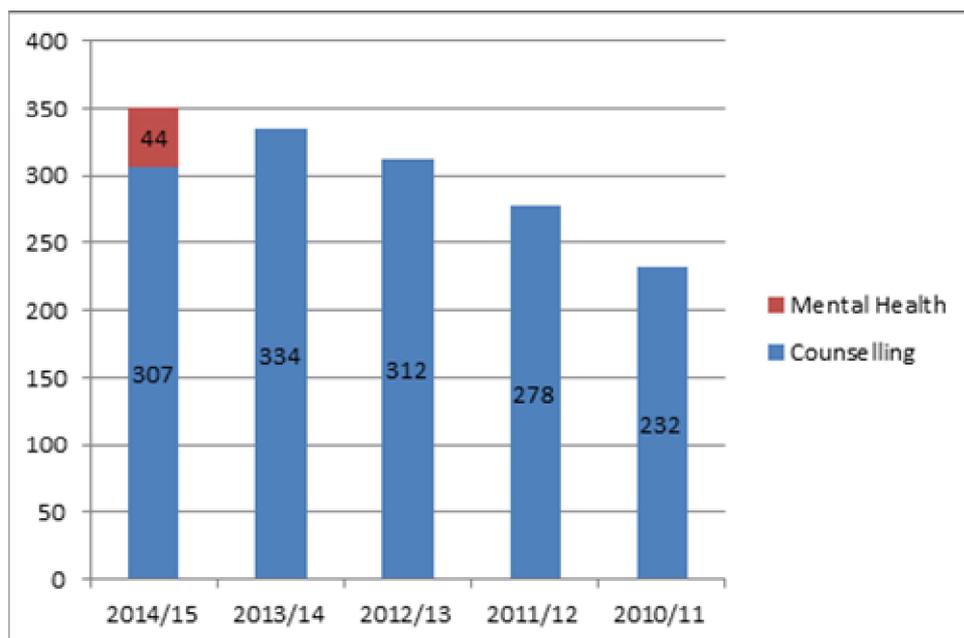
Please find a revised FOI request for the following information and ignore my earlier request yesterday, sorry for the inconvenience.

For each question please provide a year by year break down (non-academic) for January 2010 to January 2016. Enquiries have been made about the possibility of dis-aggregating the counselling data which is held by the University, in order to provide you with information requested based on calendar years, rather than academic years (which is how it is recorded). Unfortunately, it has not proved possible to do so. The University records data around its own business needs. The counselling database was originally set up by academic year, and the software utilised by it is no longer supported. The University does not have the expertise in-house to re-engineer the database, and the cost to engage specialist contractors to do so would be prohibitive (and would exceed the excessive cost of compliance limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Scotland) Act 2002; nor is there any legislative requirement to create new information in order to respond to an FOI request). Further, students register for academic years rather than for calendar years; and therefore to report by calendar year would distort the numbers. Similarly, the University's finances and its accounts are recorded by, and reported on, academic years rather than calendar years. The University has provided you with as much information as possible within these constraints.

1 Please can you provide statistics to show the number of students who applied for an appointment for counselling services?

This information is not held.

2 How many students had an appointment for counselling services during that time?



In 2015/16, 256 students had an appointment, as at 27 January 2016.

3 How many students during that period were referred to specialist mental health services?

Please see above. The Student Counselling Service appointed a Mental Health Advisor in September 2014; thus there are no figures for the previous years. The figures in the above chart are referrals from Counselling to Mental Health.

4 How long did the students requesting counselling have to wait for an appointment?

	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
<b>Total wait for appointment (days)</b>	10.7*	7.0	7.0	6.6	5.9

\* This was a period of staff leaving and new staff being recruited.

The figure for 2015/16 is 8.2 (days), as at 27 January 2016.

5 How much funding did the university receive for counselling services?

2015-16	£85,000	Estimated budget for year, as at 27 January 2016.
2014-15	£81,468	
2013-14	£77,062	
2012-13	£79,913	
2011-12	£84,821	
2011-10	£77,213	
2010-09	£79,217	

6 How many students attended the university?

Figures for the total number of students attending the University in each of these years.

Session 2011/12 - 5003 students  
 Session 2012/13 - 4821 students  
 Session 2013/14 - 4685 students

Session 2014/15 - 4151 students  
Session 2015/16 - 4099 students

7 What percentage of your students tried to access counselling services during that time?

Information is not held in relation to students who "tried" to access counselling. Figures for actual access have been presented above. If it is helpful, the nearest equivalent percentage would be to divide the total numbers of students who accessed counselling by the total numbers of students and multiply by 100. (As noted above, there is no obligation under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to create new information in order to respond to an information request.)

8 How many students took their own lives during this period?

One student has taken their own life during this period.

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](mailto: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.itspublicknowledge.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.itspublicknowledge.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,

*FOI Processing*

Secretariat  
Abertay University

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