Dear ████████████

Our Ref: 006/18

As of 1 October 2012, Edinburgh's Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College merged to create a single college called Edinburgh College.

We refer to your request for information dated 07 February 2018. The College has considered your request as a request for information under section 1 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("FOISA"):

006/18 (1): Whether your institution has a dedicated counselling service available to students;

The college does not employ any dedicated mental health practitioners or counsellors.

Support for students:
Support is available to students through campus-based Student Support teams, Learner Development Tutors (LDTs) and Students' Association staff, who provide mental health support to students as part of their wider role.
LDTs and Student Support staff offer solution focused and recovery based approaches based on WRAP (Wellbeing Recovery Action Planning) resources, signposting to web based resources and referral to external community agencies such as self-harm projects, life coaching and counselling organisations.

The college's LDTs and Student Support teams include members of staff with training and qualifications in counselling skills and other mental health approaches. The college offers training for staff in mental health first aid, suicide awareness and intervention skills.

The college does not provide a therapeutic service. We refer students on to external mental health and counselling services and provide ongoing support to enable them to remain at college.

However, please note, the college is currently in the process of establishing a pilot student counselling service (starting June 2018 to 31 May 2019).

Edinburgh College Students' Association (ECSA): At the Students' Association, all staff and Full-Time Officers (FTOs) have gone through the 12 hr Scotland's Mental Health First Aid Course and all new staff / FTOs undertake this training each year.

Support for staff:
The college employs an occupational health nurse with experience in supporting and signposting staff with health issues, including mental health. Staff are also able to contact the college's employee assistance provider, PAM Assist - a confidential external counselling service for a range of issues, including mental health issues.

006/18 (2): The number of students (i) seeking and (ii) accessing counselling services, broken down by academic year for the five academic years up to and including 2016-17;

As noted above, the college does not provide a dedicated counselling service to students. Please see response to **006/18 (1)** which details the support offered to both students and staff at the college.

006/18 (3): The shortest waiting time, longest waiting time, and average waiting time for those seeking access to counselling services broken down by academic year for the five academic years up to and including 2016-17;

N/A

006/18 (4): The number of (i) full time counsellors, and (ii) part time counsellors with a recognised counselling qualification, employed by the institution, broken down by academic year for the five academic years up to and including 2016-17;

N/A

006/18 (5): How many students left their course in academic year 2016/17 prior to completion

2016/17 – 2871 students were recorded as being withdrawn.

006/18 (6): If your institution gathers such data, the number of students citing (i) mental health or welfare issues and (ii) financial reasons as a reason for leaving their course in academic year 2016/17

2016/17 – 58 students disclosed financial as a contributory reason for withdrawal.

The college does not gather data on mental health or welfare issues as a contributory reason for withdrawal.

Edinburgh College is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA) 2002. If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the college to review this decision. To do this, please contact the Head of Corporate Development at the postal address below or e-mail the Head of Corporate Development at governance@edinburghcollege.ac.uk describing your original request and explaining your grounds for dissatisfaction. (Please include in your review request, your name and home address for correspondence).

You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request to:

Head of Corporate Development

4th Floor

Edinburgh College (Milton Road Campus)

24 Milton Road East

Edinburgh

EH15 2PP

When the review process has been completed and if you are still dissatisfied, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to intervene.

The Commissioner's online appeal service is available from their website: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

The online appeal service is available 24/7 and offers you real time help and advice about your appeal.

You must appeal to the Commissioner within six months of receiving the review decision.

You also have the right to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law following a decision of the Commissioner.

Regards

FOI Team