

From: Edinburgh College Freedom of Information

Sent: 26 July 2019 10:04

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request - FOI: bereavement services

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: 026/19

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 03 July 2019. The College has considered your request as a request for information under section 1 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("FOISA").

I'm looking for information regarding the bereavement services which are available in your university or college. Please could you answer the following:

026/19 (1): Do you offer special provisions for counselling services for students specific to bereavement? Y/N No

026/19 (2): Do you offer any support or counselling services for students? Y/N Yes

The College employs a Student Wellbeing Adviser whose role is to work with students individually and in groups to manage their mental health and wellbeing using a variety of approaches.

Support is also available to students through campus-based Learning Support teams, Learning Development Tutors (LDTs) and Students' Association staff, who provide mental health support to students as part of their wider role.

LDTs and Learning 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 the Wellbeing Adviser.

The college's LDTs and Learning Support teams include members of staff with training and qualifications in counselling skills and other mental health approaches.

The Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Policy is available online:

<http://doc.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/welcome/governance/policies/Student%20Mental%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Policy.pdf>

026/19 (3): Do you have an institution wide policy/guidance regarding caring for students following a bereavement? Y/N No. Please refer to **026/19 (2)** which details the support provided by the College.

026/19 (4): Do your policies or practices exclusively relate to support for students who have lost parents or does your support factor in other forms of bereavement, such as losing a sibling? No

026/19 (5): Can you tell me what special provision you have for offering extensions and academic breaks in study after a bereavement? These are managed on a case by case basis and extensions or breaks may be granted. Please refer to Appendix 2 'Fitness to continue study guidance' in the Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Policy (link provided above in response to **026/19 (2)**).

026/19 (6): How much money did you allocate to counselling and support services for bereavement per year (Jan 2016-Jan 2019)? N/A

026/19 (7): If you feel you would like to offer an opinion, would you say your institution feels you are offered enough from the Government in order to support students who have experienced bereavement while studying? N/A

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 Communications, Policy and Research at the postal address below or e-mail the Head of Communications, Policy and Research 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 Communications, Policy and Research

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