

LC/DHD: 1670420

07 April 2020

Dear

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (2002).

I now respond to your request as follows:

"I write on behalf of the EIS seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (2002)"

1. *Does your college provide onsite counselling services for students?*

Yes.

2. *How many counsellors does your college employ?*

The College has recently employed two Student Counsellors.

3. *How many hours are each of your counsellors employed for?*

35 hours per week.

4. *Are all of your counsellors fully qualified and registered counsellors?*

Yes.

5. *Do you have designated counselling space for these services?*

The College has a designated space in some campuses. However, the College has a room booking system, where a private room can be booked in any campus location.

6. *Does your college use external counselling services?*

Yes, in some cases previous arrangements are still in place due to the Student Counsellors only recently being employed.

7. *How many students have studied or study at your college in the previous and current academic year?*

2018-19 Enrolment Total: 19,100

2019-20 Enrolment Total: 16,250 (as at 3 April 2020)

8. *How many appointments have been provided for your students by counsellors in the previous and current academic year?*

Nil. The Student Counsellors only commenced employment in March 2020 and due to COVID-19 are home working.

9. *Have you employed an additional counsellor as a result of the additional funding provided by the Scottish Government in relation to the provision of counselling services?*

Yes, both Student Counsellors were employed as a result of the above funding.

10. *Have all staff been trained in signposting students who may benefit from counselling services to the appropriate support at your college?*

Training has not commenced yet due to Counsellors being new in post and staff working from home as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Advice and Guidance Team triage referrals at the moment, which will become the Student Counsellors role when the College physically re-opens. All staff have been notified of the referral procedure.

11. *Is this training voluntary or mandatory?*

N/A

I trust the above response meets your request for information in full.

Should you be unhappy with the College's response you are entitled to seek a review of the response. To seek a review, you should apply, in writing, to Derek Smeall, Principal, stating the grounds for seeking a review.

I also wish to advise you that the Scottish Information Commissioner has launched an online appeals service via their website – the link is as follows:

www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal.

Other contact information for the Scottish Information Commissioner is listed below:

Tel: 01334 464610

Email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Thank you for your interest in the College.

Yours sincerely

PP

Interim Assistant Principal

