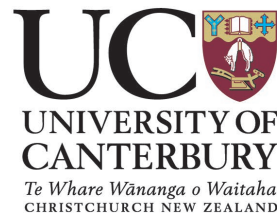


Office of the Registrar

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5 September 2023

Ella Gibbons

By email: fyi-request-23753-8243b111@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ella

Official Information Act request 23.73 Sexual Violence incidents

I refer to the Official Information Act (the Act) request dated 9 August 2023 for information relating to sexual violence incidents. You have requested the following:

I am writing to request information on sexual violence definitions, incidents, and responses at The University of Canterbury over the past five years:

- 1. Reported Acts of Sexual Violence: We are hoping to understand the number of reported acts of sexual violence that have been brought to the university's attention within the last five years and the number of these that occurred in university premises (including halls of residence) and the number that occurred outside of university premises.*
- 2. University Definition of Sexual Violence: We would also appreciate clarification on whether the university has an established definition for operationalizing sexual violence. If so, could this definition please be provided.*
- 3. University Responses to Sexual Violence: In addition, we seek information on the existing responses that the university has implemented to address and combat sexual violence.*

We recognize that sexual violence is a complex issue, and we acknowledge that the number of reported incidents does not reflect the safety of the university environment. Instead, we understand that the focus should be on creating an environment where students feel comfortable and supported in seeking help and assistance from the university. We appreciate your cooperation in providing this information as we believe that understanding and addressing sexual violence will help create a safe and supportive environment.

1. Please note that these numbers only include formal reports of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment allegedly caused by a UC student or staff member. While students may choose to informally report such incidents to support services on campus, UC cannot investigate matters that are not reported through the formal process.

Please see formal reports for sexual misconduct and harassment reported to People and Culture (Table 1) and reported to the Grievance and Academic Process Advisor (Table 2).

Table 1

Year	Number of reports formally filed by students against staff for sexual misconduct or sexual harassment reported to People and Culture
2018	0
2019	2
2020	1
2021	2
2022	1
2023 (to 4 September)	1

Table 2

Year	Number of reports formally filed by students for sexual misconduct or sexual harassment reported to Grievance and Academic Process Advisor
2018	2
2019	4
2020	0
2021	1
2022	2
2023 (to 4 September)	0

2. On the 4th of September, UC commenced formal consultation with staff and students on a draft Harmful Sexual Behaviour Prevention and Response Policy. This draft provides our University Definition for operationalising harmful sexual behaviour. The proposed Policy aims to clarify options available for those seeking support and/or wanting to report harmful sexual behaviour; and to ensure those impacted by harmful sexual behaviour can access trauma-informed support and safety measures, regardless of whether they make a formal complaint to the University or a report to the Police. Please see the following link to access this draft Policy: [Draft Harmful Sexual Behaviour Prevention and Response Policy | University of Canterbury](#) .

3. In June 2022, the role of Sexual Harm Prevention and Response Lead was implemented. This role leads the development and delivery of a 'whole-of-campus' sexual harm prevention, response and support system designed to prevent and safely respond to sexual harm.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Claire O'Connell

Information Compliance Officer