

Vice-Chancellor's Office

T 64 3 325 3820
PO Box 85084, Lincoln University
Lincoln 7647, Christchurch, New Zealand

www.lincoln.ac.nz



30 August 2017

Kyra Gillies, Chris Lam, Luca Elder

By email: FYI website

fyi-request-6335-5ddf78f1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Kyra, Chris and Luca

I am writing in response to your request under the Official Information Act 1982, dated 1 August 2017, for the following information relating to the rate of sexual violence on campus at Lincoln University:

- How many acts/experiences of sexual violence have been reported to the university (including whether or not these instances have been passed onto New Zealand Police and/or resulted in conviction).
- The number of sexual violence reports made to the university, and for these to be broken up by the different types of sexual violence that are being reported:
 - Unwanted filming of a person in a sexually harassing/demeaning way
 - Non-consensual photo and/or video sharing of a person's intimate and/or sexual photos/videos
 - Online or in-person sexual harassment in the form of comments, persistent harassment for 'sex', stalking and/or rape threats
 - Sexual assault and/or unwanted groping
 - Rape (including anal and digital rape – forms still not recognised by New Zealand law)
 - Intimate partner violence in which sexual violence has been involved
 - Flouting violence in which sexual violence has been involved.
- These reports to be broken down year by year (for the past ten years, including the year still in progress), by the different forms outlined above, by the source of the report (student or staff, rape survivor or concerned friend/family member).
- The statistical data of the number of expulsions, trespass orders and reparations that have occurred after such reporting of the accused.

Four formal sexual harassment or sexual assault complaints were received from students over the 10 year period to July 2017. Two of the complaints were investigated by the Police, but no charges were laid in either case. In the other cases, no action was taken following mediation and/or counselling. There were no recorded sexual harassment or assault allegations against staff.

Providing any further details of the specific complaints would risk a breach of privacy of the individuals involved. In the University's view, the public interest is adequately served by releasing the total number of complaints and providing general information on the handling of complaints.

The University has a duty of care for all members of the University community and non-compliant activities or behaviours are not tolerated. Of course, in cases of sexual harassment or assault complaints, the University's prime concern is for the wellbeing of the complainant.

The discipline regulations applying to students include misconduct for harassing "any member of the University with offensive or unwanted sexual or nonsexual behaviour which limits his or her capacity to study or to enjoy the University amenities". The Lincoln University Students' Association does not have a code of conduct covering the student body.

Cases of alleged student behavioural misconduct are generally referred to the proctor and/or halls of residence manager for initial investigation. Given that a sexual assault complaint involves a potential criminal offence, such an allegation would be referred to the Police where the complainant agrees to that course of action. Exclusion of students from the University is considered for serious offences and suspension or expulsion from the halls of residence is an option where students breach the conditions of their residency.

As alcohol has been a common factor in serious misconduct incidents involving students, the University and the Students' Association ran a "Look after your mates" campaign. This included compulsory attendance for halls' residents at a presentation given in conjunction with the Police, in particular addressing the risks associated with alcohol and sexual activity.

Complaints and allegations of serious misconduct involving staff are investigated under the University's Employee Discipline Procedure. A full investigation must be carried out where allegations of serious misconduct are made against an employee and there is a possibility of dismissal.

The University also has a staff Code of Conduct as an overarching policy document which defines and clarifies the expected standards of behaviour at Lincoln University. The University expects that all members of the University community be entitled to work, learn, study and participate in all aspects of the University's life in an environment of safety and respect.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Carpinter
Director, Governance