

Our Ref: 002/20

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 13 March 2020. The College has considered your request as a request for information under section 1 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("FOISA").

002/20 (1): Does your college provide onsite counselling services for students? **Yes.**

002/20 (2): How many counsellors does your college employ? **None, the College works with an external agency to provide a counselling service for our students.**

002/20 (3): How many hours are each of your counsellors employed for? **The external agency provides two FT counsellors and one counsellor 3 days per week.**

002/20 (4): Are all of your counsellors fully qualified and registered counsellors? **Yes.**

002/20 (5): Do you have designated counselling space for these services? **Yes, there is a wellbeing room on each Campus.**

002/20 (6): Does your college use external counselling services? **Yes.**

002/20 (7): How many students have studied or study at your college in the previous and current academic year?

2018/19: 26,547 students

2019/20 (to date): 23,869 students

002/20 (8): How many appointments have been provided for your students by counsellors in the previous and current academic year?

Aug 2018 -June 2019: 396 sessions

13 Jan 2020 – 16 March 2020: 248 sessions

002/20 (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?

No, please see response to 002/20 (2).

002/20 (10): Have all staff been trained in signposting students who may benefit from counselling services to the appropriate support at your college?

All staff are aware that they should signpost students to the Student Experience Team who can refer students to the counselling service. The College also 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. The College offers training for staff in Mental Health First Aid. The College Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy includes guidance for staff on crisis intervention. Support is also available to students through campus based Learning Support Teams,

Learning Development Tutors and Students Association staff who provide mental health support to students as part of their wider role.

002/20 (11): Is this training voluntary or mandatory? **Voluntary.**

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