

G. Johnson

By email: fyi-request-7922-a0fof307@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Johnson

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your request for information of 23 May where you requested the following information:

I would like to know the nature and outcome of all sexual harassment complaints this year, that have been reported, and given to the Student Interest and Dispute Resolution Adviser (SIDRA). Especially in cases where such outcomes involved a complaint classed as level 3 by the SIDRA. I understand that this could provoke confidentiality issues, therefore I am not expecting names.

Furthermore, I would like to know where in the legislation it states that victims of sexual harassment may not know the outcome from the disciplinary committee. As nothing in the student disciplinary stature states that victims are not entitled to know the outcome of the complaint.

As I'm sure you will understand, individual privacy and confidentiality mean that the University cannot provide detailed information about the nature or outcome of complaints to persons other than those closely involved with the complaint.

However, in 2018 to date, 10 instances of sexual harassment were reported to the Office of the Student Interest and Dispute Resolution Adviser (now known as the Manager, Student Interests and Conflict Resolution). Some of these instances related to historic matters or events not connected to the University. However, students are offered support regardless of whether they are making a complaint against a fellow student.

Of the 10 instances mentioned above, 1 was the subject of a formal complaint under the University's Student Conduct Statute. An allegation of serious misconduct was upheld by the University's Disciplinary Committee.

In line with the University's survivor-led approach, the other instances were handled in accordance with the wishes of the complainants and appropriate academic, emotional and

health support provided. Measures were also taken to manage any issues of safety and risk identified.

As you have noted, the University's Student Conduct Statute is currently silent on whether or not outcomes must be communicated to victims but the University's general approach is to keep complainants informed. The University is currently considering a review of its practices in this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pam Thorburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pam Thorburn

Director, Student Academic Services