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Mr Graeme Irvine
Assistant Coroner
Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
London
N1C 4PP

20 December 2019

Dear Mr Irvine,

I write on behalf of University of the Arts London in response to the Prevention of Future Deaths report dated 28 October 2019, related to the death of Julius Jake Little. My response describes improvements made in the university's processes for the 2019/20 academic year with the aim of preventing future deaths, I also explain our approach to sharing information.

Improvements in our processes

For the 2019/20 academic year we have made improvements to our processes for engaging disabled students, including those with long-term mental health conditions, with our support services. At the point that the information in respect of mental health conditions is shared with the university by UCAS, a pre- and post-enrolment email campaign is initiated, asking students to engage with support services. Our Disability Advisers make contact with students who have declared a disability and are requesting support. In addition, Disability Advisers are now actively following up on those students who have not engaged with support services. This has enabled us to significantly reduce the number of students who declared a long-term mental health condition prior to enrolment and are not engaging with support services from 33% in 2018 to 4% in 2019. Our Disability Advisers are continuing to follow-up with those students.

Our approach to sharing information

Members of staff within the Disability Service are aware of the condition or impairment of individual students, including in relation to when there are concerns in respect of mental health. We then develop an individual support agreement with the student which includes making reasonable adjustments including adapting the environment, in order to meet their needs. This information is shared more widely with the express permission of the student.

Disability-related information is classified as 'special category personal data' under the GDPR. This means there are very limited circumstances in which we can share such data without the informed consent of the student in question.

The GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 permit such data to be shared only where there is a risk of harm to self or others. In such circumstances we share information about the student on a case by case basis if we believe it is necessary to protect the individual or others from harm.

We regularly review our policies and procedures around data sharing in the context of mental health to ensure we are both compliant with the law and supporting the needs of students effectively.

I believe this response provides the information requested. If you require further details please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a sharp upward stroke followed by a horizontal line that tapers off to the right.


Dean of Students