

FOI Reference Number: FOI/130/1920

Date: 09 August 2019

Request:

How many members of staff took sick leave citing a mental health issue such as stress, anxiety or depression as the reason in 2018-19, 2017-18 and 2016-17?

How many of those were linked to allegations of bullying or harassment?

How many staff were disciplined over allegations of bullying in those financial years?

What has been the cost to the council of employment counselling sessions in those years?

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 10 July 2019.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to sick leave.

How many members of staff took sick leave citing a mental health issue such as stress, anxiety or depression as the reason in 2018-19, 2017-18 and 2016-17?

A total of 154 employees were absent due to mental health issues such as stress, anxiety and depression during the period from April 2016 - March 2019.

67 employees cited mental health reasons in 2018-19, 69 in 2017-18 and 42 in 2016-17. N.B. These figures detail the number of staff in each financial year that have been off due to a mental health issue. A number of staff had mental health related absences in more than one FY and are therefore included in each year as appropriate.

How many of those were linked to allegations of bullying or harassment?

10 of these employees linked their absence either formally or informally to allegations of bullying and harassment.

How many staff were disciplined over allegations of bullying in those financial years?

There were no employees disciplined due to allegations of bullying or harassment in those financial years.

What has been the cost to the council of employment counselling sessions in those years?

The costs to Council have been: £7,560 in 2018-19, £16,718 in 2017-18 and £10,012 in 2016-17

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/130/1920 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.