Established in 2016, The 1752 Group is a UK-based research, lobbying and consulting organisation run by academics that addresses **staff-to-student sexual misconduct** in higher education.

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Journal articles


2018 UK national survey of 1839 respondents

Conclusions:

• **Sexual misconduct is common** - 40% had experienced at least one incident of sexualised behaviour from staff

• **Sexual misconduct is under-reported** - only 10% of respondents who experienced staff sexual misconduct reported this to their institution

• **Sexualised relationships impact students** - 80% of respondents were uncomfortable with staff-student sexual/romantic relationships
Summary:

- In 6 out of 16 cases there was no investigation but instead an informal response from the institution.
- There was clear evidence of a lack of institutional preparedness to deal with reports of staff sexual misconduct.
- Only 1 out of 15 perpetrators lost their job as a result of the misconduct.
Current UK landscape

• No regulatory framework or equivalence to Title IX.
• UK Office for Students is the independent regulator of HE in England (only).
• Equality Act 2010 is being used to bring civil cases.
• Universities UK (UUK) is a national membership body, delivers guidance and recommendations to the sector.
• UUK guidelines exist on student-student sexual harassment sexual violence and hate crimes.
• Currently developing UUK guidance on staff-student sexual misconduct.
• Media primarily responsible for ‘uncovering’ cases and complaints.
Current action in the UK

Recommendations for Student-Staff Complaints Processes in UK Higher Education
Guidance Principles

• Recommends good practices for institutional processes relating to non-academic complaints by students towards staff employed or contracted in UK HEIs.

• Provides recommendation to HEIs on how to adapt or modify their current procedures to ensure a fair and transparent procedure for all parties involved.
Guidance Principles

Key principles of this guidance:

1. HEIs must modify their staff disciplinary process to ensure a fair process for student complainants.

2. Student complainants and responding staff members must be accorded equal rights in the complaints process.
Guidance

The guidance covers:

• Initial submission of complaint and risk assessment
• The investigation
• The decision-making procedure
• The review process
• Confidentiality of outcomes and protection of the complainant
• Data recording and management