

## **Report on anonymous reporting of harassment, hate crime and sexual misconduct**

This is a summary of the anonymous reporting that has taken place between 5 May 2017 and 30 September 2018. The reporting tool is available at:

[www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/anonymous-reporting](http://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/anonymous-reporting).

### **What is anonymous reporting?**

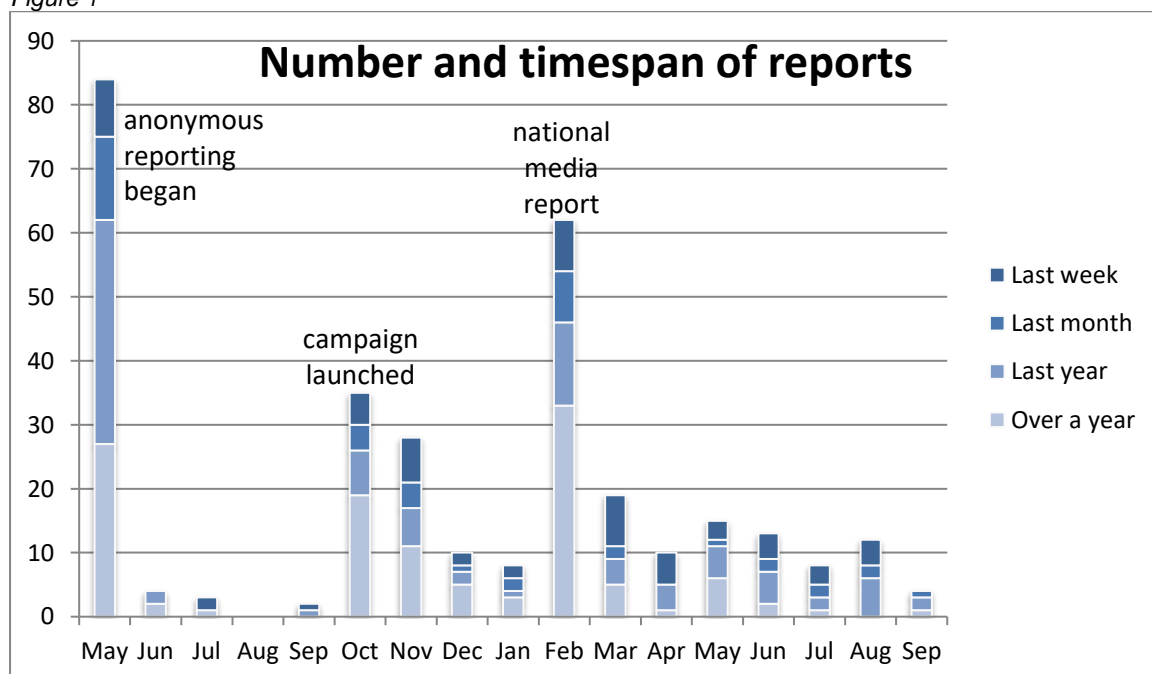
The mechanism enables students, staff and visitors to the University to report incidents of harassment, hate crime and sexual misconduct for statistical purposes. Users of the form are informed that no individual action or investigation can be taken as a result of reporting anonymously. The tool does not use any verification method; however, as the information it captures is so limited there would be little advantage in someone choosing to report inaccurately and there is no reason to think this has occurred. Participants answer a series of multiple choice questions and are unable to include any free text comments.

The reporting mechanism was initially advertised only by the Students' Union's Women's Officer and College nurses. Subsequently, it has been a component of the 'Breaking the Silence: Cambridge speaks out against sexual misconduct' campaign and is mentioned in all of the prevention initiatives. Any questions regarding the anonymous reporting tool or this data should be sent to the Office of Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals at [OSCCA@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:OSCCA@admin.cam.ac.uk).

### **How many reports have been received?**

Between 5 May 2017 and 30 September 2018, 316 reports have been received. The number of reports and whether they were reporting incidents that took place in the last week, month, year or over a year ago are represented below:

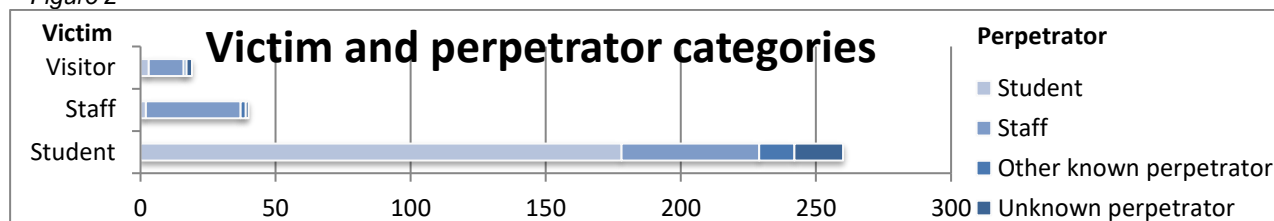
Figure 1



As the tool becomes more embedded, as hoped, there has been a decrease in reports of an incidents that have taken place over a year ago. The increase in reports received over the summer, when there is less promotion suggests that there are some students and staff who are continuing to use the tool or knowledge of it is spreading through word of mouth. It will be important to see whether these trends continue over the coming year.

## Who is anonymously reporting incidents?

Figure 2

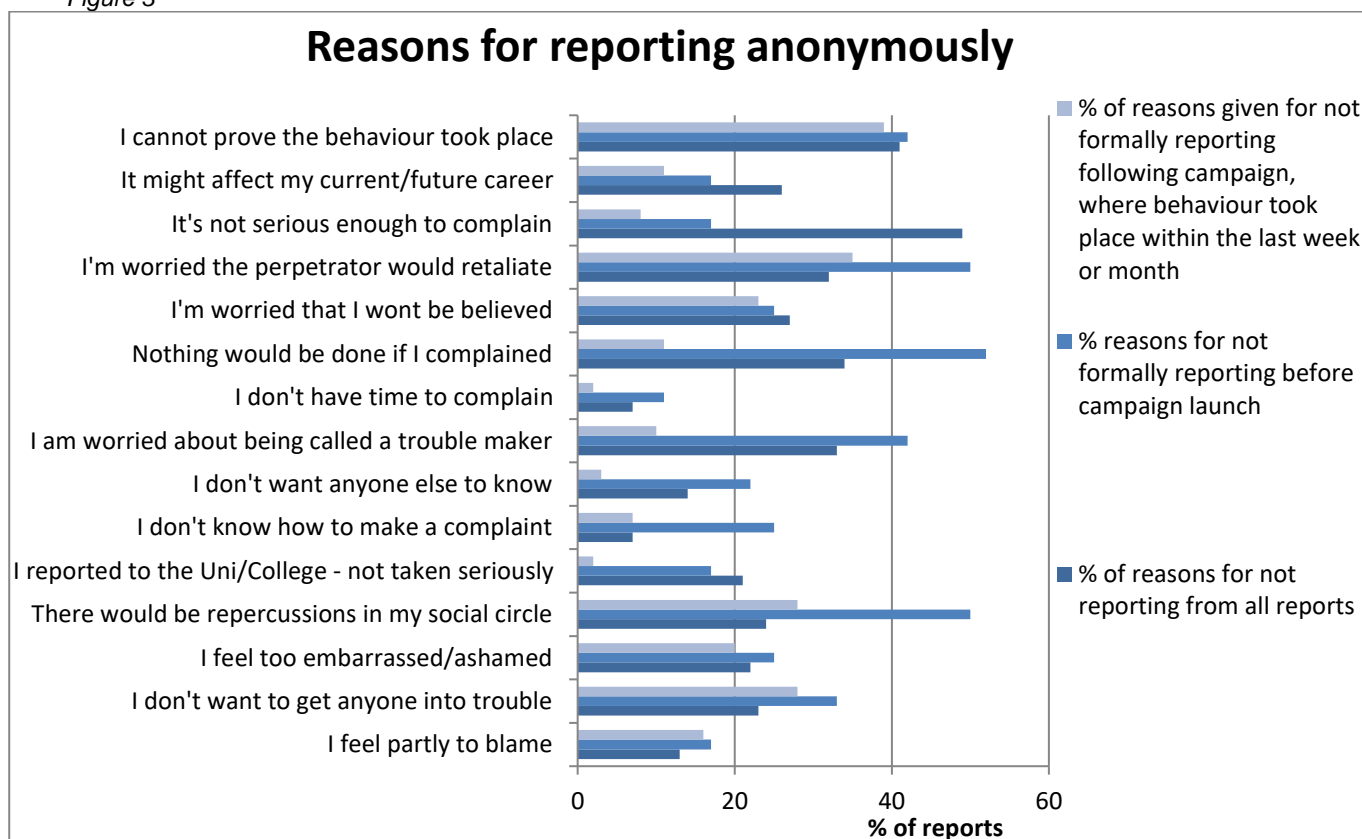


9% of all reports included a perpetrator that was unknown to the victim and 8% where 'engaging in sexual intercourse or a sexual act without consent' was reported. This is in line with the national statistic from the Office of National Statistics, which reports that only 8% of all rapes are perpetrated by strangers.

## Reasons for anonymous reporting

Those reporting anonymously can choose from a list of 'reasons' about why they have chosen to report anonymously. The 'reasons' have been combined from sources including the Universities UK Taskforce Report examining violence against women, harassment and hate crime; Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre; and the Australian Human Rights Commission survey on the reporting of sexual assault and harassment at Australian universities. There are now a number of universities across England that have used this list of reasons for the basis of their own anonymous reporting systems:

Figure 3



People reporting incidents often cite multiple reasons for reporting anonymously. Several reasons have seen reduction since the launch of the campaign. Prior to the campaign 52% of people reporting did not formally report because they did not consider anything would be

done if they complained, this has dropped to 11% for people reporting recent incidents following the campaign. There have also been significant decreases in reasons relating to worries about being labelled as a troublemaker, not wanting anyone to know the incident took place, and some reduction in fear of repercussions in the reporter’s social circle.

However, there has been little change in concern that reporter’s would not be able to ‘prove’ that the behaviour has taken place, which has remained around the 40% mark. This suggests that there is not enough knowledge about the informal reporting process for students, which allows action to be taken by agreement without an investigation into whether the behaviour took place. Fear of perpetrator retaliation remains high, with a decrease from 50% to 35% and whilst this is more reflective of wider society, it still remains a considerable barrier to reporting.

Whilst these statistics evidence that the campaign is having some impact, this data should be considered with caution, as there is only a comparably small data set for reports since the campaign began. However, due to the number of reports received over a longer time period, there are some trends where the underlying data is more robust. For example, the trend relating to a decrease in reporters believing ‘nothing would be done if I complained’ has been falling each month – initially to 32%, then 28%, then 24%, before continuing to decrease to 11%. This gradual improvement suggests that the University population’s confidence in the University taking action in relation to reports of sexual misconduct continues to increase. Albeit that it is likely to be the most engaged proportion of the University community that are aware of the anonymous reporting mechanism.

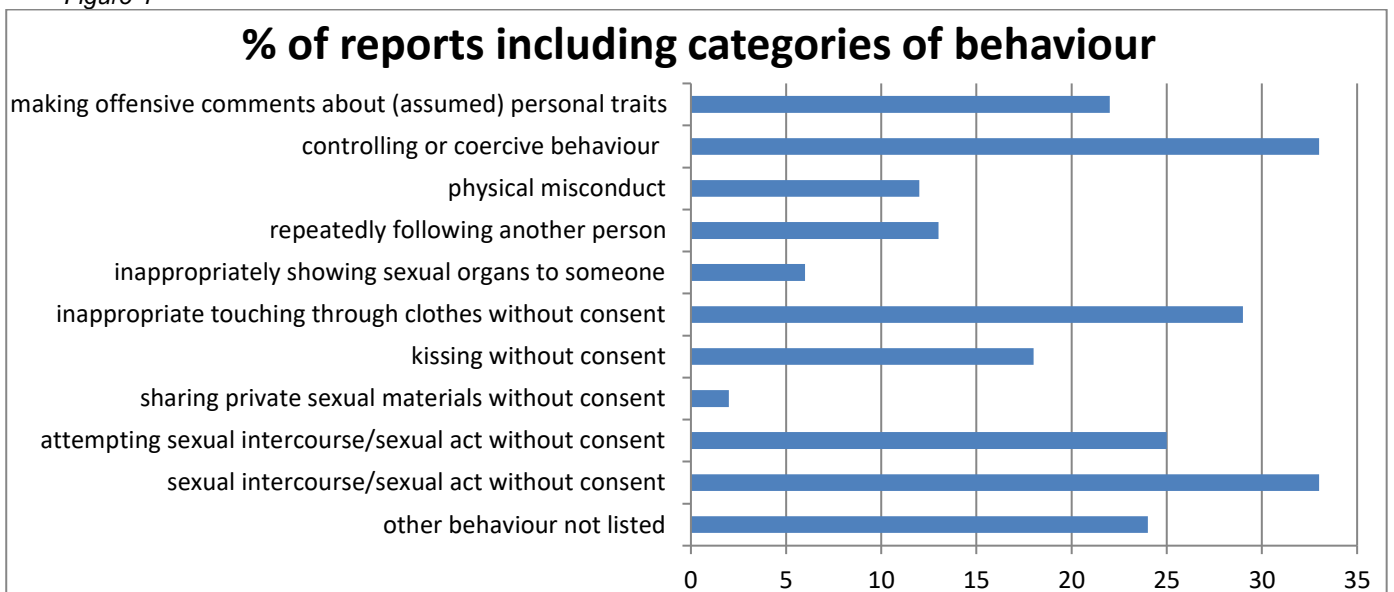
**Where do incidents take place?**

As the majority of incidents reported take place between students (56%), the majority of them occur on College grounds; 53% of all incidents take place on College property; 25% on University property; 13% of incidents taking place elsewhere within Cambridge; and 9% taking place outside of Cambridge.

**What type of behaviour is reported?**

A substantial proportion of people reporting misconduct cited multiple categories of behaviour. The frequency of reporting particular categories of behaviour are as follows:

Figure 4

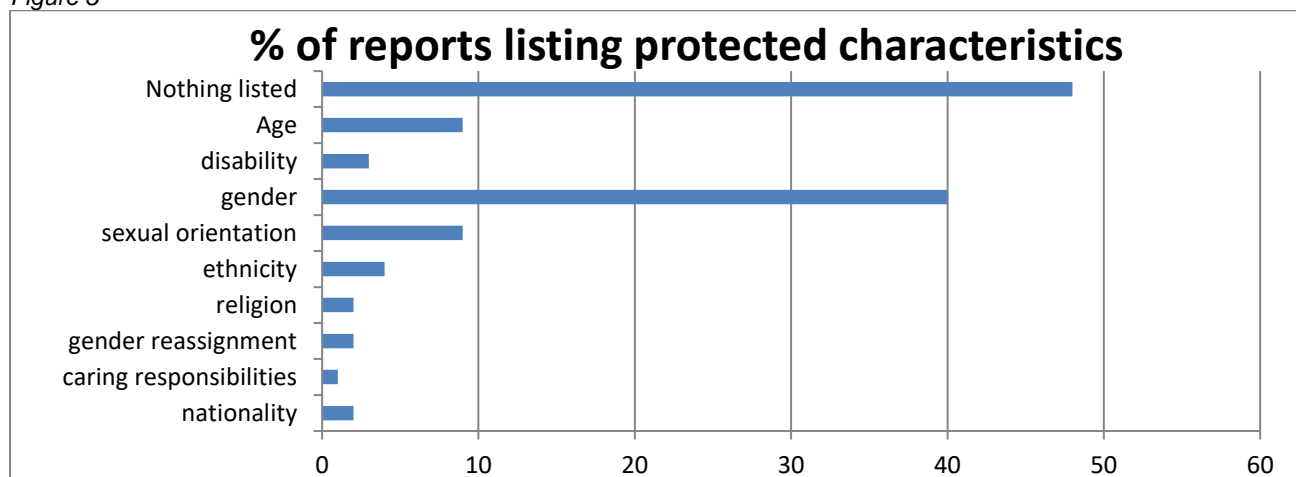


The proportions of types of behaviour that have been reported has remained relatively constant throughout the time that the tool has been in place. The most common category of misconduct is 'engaging in sexual intercourse or a sexual act without consent'. Whilst this highlights the significant prevalence of the type of behaviour, reporters may be more likely to report serious behaviour through this tool compared to less serious behaviour. Out of the 104 reports listing this category, 96 originate from students, 3 from staff (where the perpetrator was a student, a staff member and someone else known to them) and 3 from a visitor (where one perpetrator was a staff member and two were neither a student nor staff member). For the student cases, 84 were perpetrated by other students; 5 by staff members; 5 by someone else known to the victim; and 4 by an unknown perpetrator. 63% of reports regarding this type of behaviour were reported as taking place within the last year.

### Links to protected characteristics

Participants can specify if they believe they were targeted because of a protected characteristic or assumed protected characteristic:

Figure 5



Reports can cite multiple protected characteristics; the most common one cited is gender, which was linked to a wide range of behaviours. A substantial proportion of incidents linked to other protected characteristics are regarding 'offensive comments made about personality traits or assumed personality traits', except for sexual orientation where reports specifying this characteristic were linked to all categories of behaviour.

### Conclusion

The anonymous reporting tool has enabled the University to measure the impact of some aspects of its sexual misconduct campaign on the University community and to look more closely at the barriers to formal reporting.

For the 2018/19 academic year, data will be captured regarding the reporter's gender and whether reporters have sought support. It will be important to keep the tool within the conscious of the University community in order for it to remain a valuable data source. One way of raising awareness is to continue to use the data collected as part of future communications. Powerful messages could be shared, for example "41% of anonymous reporters didn't formally report because they couldn't prove the behaviour took place – report and action can be taken to limit interaction with someone by agreement without have to prove something happened" or "a quarter of anonymous reporters are worried about getting a perpetrator into trouble but informal action can be taken without a formal record being made – if in doubt contact the Sexual Assault and Harassment Advisor to talk about your options".