



# Department for Business Innovation & Skills

Higher Education Analysis  
Department for Business, Innovation &  
Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
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SW1H 0ET

Ms Jen Persson

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those with hearing impairment)  
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[www.gov.uk/bis](http://www.gov.uk/bis)

Our ref: FOI201606452

14 April 2016

Dear Ms Persson,

Thank you for your email of 15 March 2016 where you requested the following information:

*I am making a freedom of information request regards higher education data.*

*With reference to recent correspondence with the Department for Education (see end note [1]) and your webpages [2]) please confirm:*

*1. The titles of the national databases for which your department has responsibility that contain any information about individuals and their personal and higher education or higher ed. staff related data ie as for schools called the 'national pupil database'.*

*For each database separately please confirm:*

*2. The total number of individuals' data held in that database*

*3. From when the earliest individuals' records begin (other than DOB) ie when the database began and the records began to be stored in it. (ie 1993).*

*4. A copy of the third party tool used to have oversight of third party releases, for example a Release Register similar to the NPD register[3] including as complete metadata on the content of each release as you have available, for example, indicators of what type of data it included ie. Aggregated or individual level, what level of small numbers if relevant, volume of data. Or provide the key to labels used for what type of data (ie as NPD uses the label Tier 1 = identifiable and highly sensitive).*

*Please provide as you have it, rather than creating anything custom to meet this request if possible simply to export as a complete copy.*

*Either provide this for every release, since the process began if that is easier and less time consuming for you, or An extract: only for releases to any third parties that have received data, listed under purpose 3 or 4. Users to whom information may be supplied for Purpose 3 include:*

*Commercial organisations (e.g. recruitment firms, housing providers, graduate employers)  
Unions  
Non-governmental organisations and charities  
Local, regional and national government bodies  
Journalists*

*5. The accompanying price lists for all data releases, whether standard or custom.*

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

To the extent that the information you are seeking to access seemingly correlates with the ownership of these national databases, your request may be more appropriately addressed to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

If you have not already done so, then you may wish to write to HESA at:

Higher Education Statistics Agency  
95 Promenade,  
Cheltenham,  
GL50 1HZ

Email: [analytical.services@hesa.ac.uk](mailto:analytical.services@hesa.ac.uk)

## **Appeals procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling 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 request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Information Rights Unit  
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET  
Email: [FOI.Requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.Requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the 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.

Yours sincerely,

BIS Higher Education Analysis