



Department for Business Innovation & Skills

Higher Education Analysis
Department for Business, Innovation &
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Our ref: FOI2016/09068

27th May 2016

Dear Ms Persson,

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2016 where you requested the following information:

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

"The AP student record is collected by HESA on behalf of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE)." (Ref: https://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/studrec/show_file/15054/coverage.html)

Given that it is collected on behalf of BIS, I would like to ask for you to clarify at least part one of the question:

Does BIS currently (as of April 12, 2016) hold a copy of the following databases in part or as a whole and if so, how many individuals' records are in each that BIS holds:

*Student records
AP student records
Destination of Leavers
Staff*

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).

I confirm that BIS holds copies of the databases referenced in your email. Details of how many individuals' records are in each database are enclosed in the appendix to this letter.

Details of the Alternative Provider Student Record, first collected in 2014/15, is withheld in accordance with Section 22 of the Act because this information is intended for publication at a

future date. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test.

Whilst the disclosure of such information leads to greater transparency in government, it does not outweigh the better use of public resources in preparing a single, accurate and more comprehensive presentation of the information in HESA's Statistical First Release (SFR). So, having considered the public interest test, the Department's decision is to withhold the requested information. The information will be published on 15th June and will be available on the HESA website – www.hesa.ac.uk.

BIS, like all government departments, takes its data security responsibilities very seriously. All data held is dealt with confidentially and information is only held if it is essential to performing our functions as a Department.

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

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

Appendix A –

The tables below show the HESA databases that contain Personal Data. Data is collected annually and the tables show the general database name as the second column heading and the annual collection identifier for each year. For each year the tables show the number of individuals included in the annual collection. Since individuals are usually represented across several annual collections I have provided a total count of individuals for each collection type. You can find lists of the data fields collected in each year via <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/2545/209/>

Students

Academic year	Student Record	Count of individual identifiers
2014/15	c14051	2776205
2013/14	c13051	2838735
2012/13	c12051	2928620
2011/12	c11051	3087070
2010/11	c10051	3116430
2009/10	c09051	3058540
2008/09	c08051	2949255
2007/08	c07051	2898760
2006/07	c06011	2987775
2005/06	c05011	2953670
2004/05	c04011	2893205
2003/04	c03011	2821910
2002/03	c02011	2728135
2001/02	c01011	2542510
2000/01	c00011	2444290
1999/00	c99011	2356880
1998/99	c98011	2246970
1997/98	c97011	2186310
1996/97	c96011	2120775
1995/96	c95011	1994460
1994/95	c94011	1775530

Destinations

Academic year	Destinations of Leavers from HE	Count of individual identifiers
2013/14	c13018	491250
2012/13	c12018	488015
2011/12	c11018	480270
2010/11	c10018	425960
2009/10	c09018	404990
2008/09	c08018	375925
2007/08	c07018	364045
2006/07	c06018	348800
2005/06	c05018	342080
2004/05	c04018	331660
2003/04	c03018	327365
2002/03	c02018	315660

Academic year	First Destination Supplement	Count of individual identifiers
2001/02	c01016	252635
2000/01	c00016	248640
1999/00	c99016	245140
1998/99	c98016	269580
1997/98	c97016	281085
1996/97	c96016	278835
1995/96	c95016	272545
1994/95	c94016	259300

Staff

Academic year	Staff Record	Count of individual identifiers
2014/15	c14025	592770
2013/14	c13025	580130
2012/13	c12025	568730
2011/12	c11025	632765
2010/11	c10025	627715
2009/10	c09025	633475
2008/09	c08025	644345
2007/08	c07025	635920
2006/07	c06025	616185
2005/06	c05025	592025
2004/05	c04025	581650
2003/04	c03025	423430

Academic year	Staff Individualised Record	Count of individual identifiers
2002/03	c02021	143155
2001/02	c01021	140550
2000/01	c00021	136760
1999/00	c99021	132460
1998/99	c98021	127520
1997/98	c97021	125025
1996/97	c96021	126325
1995/96	c95021	122960
1994/95	c94021	111810

Collection type	Total individuals on database (1994/95 to 2014/15)
Student	20586280
Destinations (subset of Student)	6347555
Staff	2173910