

Business Assurance
Information Compliance

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Tel: 020 7848 7816
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M Smith

By email only to: request-686204-089cc5f2@whatdotheyknow.com

11 September 2020

Dear M Smith,

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”)

Further to your recent request for information held by King’s College London, I am writing to confirm that the requested information is held by the university.

Your request

We received your information request on 20 August 2020 and have treated it as a request for information made under section 1(1) of the Act.

You requested the following information:

Please could I have information about how many people on the MSc Physics and MSc Theoretical Physics course graduated with a Fail, Pass, Merit or Distinction over the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. I would also like to request the same information for the current year, 2020, if already available.

Please could I have information about the average mark and number of enrolled students per module for level 4,5,6 and 7 physics modules for the years 2017,2018 & 2019. If 2020 data is already available I'd like to request that too. If possible, could the mark range (highest to lowest) for these modules be provided too.

Our response

Please see attached document. Where the total number of students is 5 or under, the university has replaced the figure with ‘equal to or less than five’ (≤ 5). The university considers that it is reasonably likely that students could be identified from the low numbers. Such identification would constitute a breach of one of the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). This approach is in

accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office Code of Practice on Anonymisation. This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Act. This is an absolute exemption which means that the university does not need to consider the public interest in disclosing the information, we only need to establish that the exemption has been engaged.

The methodology the university has adopted is a variation of the HESA standard rounding and suppression method. Numbers that are five or fewer are replaced with " ≤ 5 (less than or equal to five).

Full details of the HESA methodology can be found on their website:
<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection/rounding-and-suppression-anonymise-statistics>

This completes the university's response to your information request.

Your right to complain

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your information request or feel that it has not been properly handled you have the right to complain or request a review of our decision by contacting the Assistant Director of Business Assurance (Information Compliance) within 60 days of the date of this letter.

Further information about our internal complaints procedure is available at the link below:

[http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/assets/files/governance_and_legal/Freedom of Information Policy updated Oct %202011.pdf](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/assets/files/governance_and_legal/Freedom_of Information Policy updated Oct %202011.pdf)

In the event that you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal complaints procedure provided by King's College London.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Jade Roche

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