



**By e-mail:** P. Camayah  
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Freedom of Information Office  
4 West  
University of Bath  
Claverton Down  
Bath  
BA2 7AY

6 September 2021

Dear Mr/Ms Camayah

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 2000 – 2021/237**

Your request was received on 8 August 2021 and was handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. It is copied below for your reference.

*'Under the Freedom of Information act, I would like to know for every undergraduate programme for the 2020/21, 2019/20 and 2018/19 admission cycles:*

- *the programme name,*
- *the programme code,*
- *the number of applications,*
- *the number of offers made,*
- *the number of acceptances'*

Section 1(1) usually entitles you to be told whether the requested information is held and have that information provided to you unless it is judged to be exempt from disclosure. We can confirm the information in the attached pdf.

Please note the following:

- Programme name - programme titles are not consistently used throughout internal and external sources. The titles included are as they appear in the University's course listings online, as the most "official" public source.  
For University course information see: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/courses/>
- Programme code - there are different coding structures for courses, depending on the purpose. The codes provided in the attached pdf are the UCAS course codes, which we publish and match with the codes UCAS use for our courses.
- The current admissions cycle (2020/21 for 2021 entry) is not complete and is exempted for the reasons given below under exempted information.

We have therefore provided data for from 2018 up to 2020 entry (in which students applied during 2019/20) as standard for the HE admissions sector.

The University reports to the Higher Education Statistics Agency data which may be useful to your research: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students>

## Exempted Information

Small numbers (fewer than five) have been withheld in accordance with section 40(2) of the FOIA, which relates to personal information. These numbers are therefore shown as <5 (less than five). The University considers that where small numbers are involved, there is sufficient risk that individuals could be identified, by triangulation of requested data with other information held or otherwise known. In reaching this conclusion the University has considered the conditions outlined under Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act (DPA), which describe when disclosure of personal information would be fair and lawful.

Information concerning undergraduate applications and offers 2020/21 has been withheld under section 43(2) of the FOIA, which applies when disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any organisation, including the university itself. Section 43 is a qualified exemption, which means that once the likely commercial prejudice has been identified, public interest factors for and against disclosure must be considered.

Following the execution of a public interest test we concluded that public interest is better served by maintaining the section 43(2) exemption: the public interest factors in favour of disclosure are outweighed by the harm to the university's commercial interests that would be likely to result from disclosure of this information.

The University operates in an increasingly competitive environment, facing international and national competition from long-established and well-known universities. Releasing this information would put into the public domain details that would benefit our competition in the United Kingdom and beyond, and potentially harm the University's interests. The information would be strategically useful to the University's competitors and provide them with very current inside knowledge and market data.

The University notes that disclosure under the FOIA must be considered as disclosure to the public at large and considers that releasing the information would be likely to prejudice its commercial interests by providing commercial intelligence that would give unfair advantage to its competitors, which would be likely to affect the University's position in the market. For the reasons above and in the context of an organisation that conducts teaching and research for the public benefit, it is concluded that the public interest in disclosure does not outweigh the likely harm to the commercial interests of the university. The public interest weighs in favour of maintaining the exemption in this instance.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of how your request was handled you may ask the University to conduct an internal review. A request for an internal review must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response. Requests received outside this period will only be considered at the University's discretion and where there is a valid reason to do so.

Applications for internal review should be emailed to: The Freedom of Information Team, [freedom-of-information@bath.ac.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information@bath.ac.uk) or addressed in writing to University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7AY.

If you remain dissatisfied you may appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Further details of this process are available via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/> Please note that the Information Commissioner will only consider appeals once the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely



D Bean  
Freedom of Information Officer