

Daniel Marshall  
request-594691-cf33b207@whatdotheyknow.com

16 August 2019

Our Ref: FOI 2019/327– F1203893

Dear Mr Marshall,

**Re: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your email which was received by the University on 4 August 2019 timed 15:52 hours, requesting the following information:

Please provide a minimum, maximum and average price for beds in the following categories of university accommodation for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years.

Please also provide the total number of beds in these categories for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years and the total number of beds occupied in these categories for the 2018/19 academic year.

**Categories:**

- Shared Bathroom & Self Catered
- Shared Bathroom & Catered
- En-Suite & Self Catered
- En-Suite & Catered

**University's Response**

Please provide a minimum, maximum and average price for beds in the following categories of university accommodation for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years.

Please also provide the total number of beds in these categories for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years

Category	Session 18-19				Session 19-20			
	Min	Max	Ave	Beds	Min	Max	Ave	Beds
Shared Bathroom & Self Catered	95.69	128.8	112.455	2077	98.49	132.51	115.73	2077
Shared Bathroom & Catered	161.35	161.35	161.35	84	161.35	161.35	161.35	84

**DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICE**

University of Glasgow, Tay House, Glasgow G12 8QQ

Data Protection: Telephone: 0141-330-3111 E-Mail: [dp@gla.ac.uk](mailto:dp@gla.ac.uk)

Freedom of Information: Telephone: 0141-330-2523 E-Mail: [foi@gla.ac.uk](mailto:foi@gla.ac.uk)

The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401

<b>En-Suite &amp; Self Catered</b>	145.67	156.69	151.13	1049	149.87	161.07	155.47	1049
<b>En-Suite &amp; Catered</b>	178.43	178.43	178.43	140	178.43	178.43	178.43	140

**The total number of beds occupied in these categories for the 2018/19 academic year.**

The University of Glasgow considers that the occupancy rates requested are exempt under section 33(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 on the basis that its disclosure may substantially prejudice the commercial interests of the University of Glasgow.

Notwithstanding the result of the “harm test”, section 33 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not provide an absolute exemption to the general entitlement to information. The University has therefore considered whether, notwithstanding the exemption, it is in the public interest to release the information.

The University has considered the public interest by applying the “public interest test”. That is, the University has balanced whether the release of the information is in the public interest against whether disclosure would substantially prejudice its own, or another person’s, commercial interests. The view of the Scottish Information Commissioner, in advice on the application of the “public interest test”, is that the public interest should not be interpreted as “of interest to the public”. That is, the potential release of the information must be in the interests of the public and not merely of an individual interest. The public interest in the disclosure of the financial information requested is slight. The University of Glasgow operates in a very competitive environment and the public interest is in ensuring the continuing success of the University. The disclosure of the requested information would be likely to be detrimental to the public interest as it could be used alongside information available online e.g. accommodation costs to establish the total amount made by the by the University from student accommodation fees. This relates to a purely commercial element of the University’s activity and releasing this information would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of the University of Glasgow.

The University therefore concludes that the “public interest test”, as required when applying section 33(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, is met as the disclosure of the information requested would cause real and significant substantial prejudice to the commercial interest of the University. The public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in its release.

The supply of documents under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not give the applicant or whoever receives the information any right to re-use it in such a way that might infringe the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (for example, by making multiple copies, publishing or otherwise distributing the information to other individuals and the public). The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2004 ensured that Section 50 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (“CDPA”) applies to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (“FOISA”).

Breach of copyright law is an actionable offence and the University expressly reserves its rights and remedies available to it pursuant to the CDPA and common law. Further information on copyright is available at the following website:

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/copy.htm>

### **Your right to seek a review**

Should you be dissatisfied with the way in which the University has dealt with your request, you have the right to require us to review our actions and decisions. If you wish to request a review, please contact the University Deputy Secretary, University Court Office, Gilbert Scott Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland G12 8QQ or e-mail: [foi@gla.ac.uk](mailto:foi@gla.ac.uk) within 40 working days. Your request must be in a recordable format (letter, email, audio tape, etc). You will receive a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of its receipt.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for review you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your complaint to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving the response to review letter. The Commissioner's Office may be contacted as follows:

Online Appeal Service:

Website: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

By post:

The Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

An appeal, on a point of law, to the Court of Session may be made against a decision by the Commissioner.

For further information on the review procedure please refer to

(<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/dpfoioffice/policiesandprocedures/foisa-complaintsandreview/> )

All complaints regarding requests for information will be handled in accordance with this procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office