



By e-mail: David Marshall
request-741988-65f354bf@whatdotheyknow.com

Freedom of Information Office
4 West
University of Bath
Claverton Down
Bath
BA2 7AY

23 April 2021

Dear Mr Marshall

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 2000 – 2021/094

Your request was received on 27 March 2021 and handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. The request is copied below for your reference.

'Could you please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

- The number of applications submitted this academic year for Bsc Computer Science and other Bsc Computer Science degrees for the 2021 entry year.*
- The number of students entering the 2021 entry year with a deferred place. (i.e. Applications made in 2019/2020 to study Bsc Computer Science and other Bsc Computer Science degrees which resulted in an offer to study in the 2021 entry year).'*

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.

Information about the number of applicants and offers for 2021 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 the 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.

In this instance the University considers that disclosure of figures and deferrals for the current admissions cycle which is ongoing would be likely to prejudice its commercial interests by providing current commercial intelligence that would give an unfair advantage to its competitors, which would be likely to affect the University's position in an increasingly competitive market. The University notes that disclosure under the FOIA must be considered as disclosure to the public at large.

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.

HESA is provided with data about the University's student figures each year, see:
<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/where-from>

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 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/concerns/getting/> 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