



13 March 2020

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Sorsha Caldwell

Sent by email: [request-618720-b9026f51@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-618720-b9026f51@whatdotheyknow.com)

The University of Edinburgh  
Old College  
South Bridge  
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

Direct Dial 0131 651 4099  
Switchboard 0131 650 1000

Email [recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk](mailto:recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk)

Dear Ms Caldwell

### **Freedom of information request**

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2019 requesting admissions statistics. Please accept our apologies for the delay to our response to your request. This is due to us currently experiencing a high volume of requests compounded by unplanned staff absences.

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are globally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 425 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2018/19 our annual revenue was £1.1 billion, of which £286 million was research income. We have over 43,000 students and almost 16,000 staff. We are a founding member of the UK's Russell Group of leading research universities and a member of the League of European Research Universities.

### **Admissions statistics**

You asked for the number of applicants by ethnic group and successful applications by each group in the last two years.

I have interpreted your request for successful applications as referring to the number of applicants recorded as holding an Unconditional Firm (UF) offer at the end of the relevant admissions cycle, which is used as a proxy for the number of entrants. A very small number of UF applicants do not proceed to enter the University, or withdraw soon after commencing their studies.

I have provided most of this information in Tables 1 and 2 within the enclosure. The data includes statistics for both undergraduate and postgraduate students in each requested year. Please note that for undergraduate students we receive ethnicity statistics as part of a UCAS dataset which only provides data for UK-domiciled applicants who choose to provide this information. Therefore, there are a large number of applicants whose ethnicity is recorded as 'Not applicable'. This grouping is made up of non-UK students. To respond fully to this part of your request, we would have to manually examine each individual undergraduate application record in the two year period requested, of which

there are thousands in each year. Doing so for either year would cost more than £600, the limit over which the University is not required to respond to freedom of information requests.

You will see that I have not provided the exact number where the number is fewer than five for some UFs. This is because disclosing these low numbers could enable individuals to be identified. This would breach the data protection principles set out in data protection legislation. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 38(1)(b).

### **Right to review**

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review of this decision by contacting the University's Records Management Section in writing (e.g. by letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape). You should describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. The contact details for the Records Management Section are at the top of this letter. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may use the [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) to make an appeal to the Commissioner. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the relevant web pages.

### **Privacy notice for information request applicants**

[The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice](#), which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is published on the University website.

Yours sincerely

**Dean McAdam**

Information Compliance Officer

Enclosure:

Table 1: Admissions statistics by ethnicity, 2018 cycle

Table 2: Admissions statistics by ethnicity, 2019 cycle

**If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email [recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk](mailto:recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk)**