

4 March 2024

By email to: request-1085590-3b68f3bd@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Keira Crafts

We refer to your Freedom of Information request received on 13 February 2024 about exchange students. Details of any exemptions applied are included below (where applicable).

Those parts of the University's response (together with the details of how to ask the University to review the management of your request, or thereafter to seek a review by the Scottish Information Commissioner, should you wish to do so – please see below) constitutes the notice in writing that the information specified is not held by the University which is required under section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("FOISA") and under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ("EIRs").

Your Request and Our Response (**Request in Bold**)

**Could you kindly provide the following statistics for each of the following academic years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?**

- 1. The number of exchange students who studied at your university during Semester 1.**
- 2. The number of exchange students who studied at your university during Semester 2.**
- 3. The number of exchange students who studied at your university as part of a year-abroad programme.**

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>No. of exchange students Sem. 1</b>	<b>No. of exchange students Sem. 2</b>	<b>No. of exchange students on year abroad programme</b>
<b>2013/14</b>	0	0	Under 5
<b>2014/15</b>	16	0	0

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>No. of exchange students Sem. 1</b>	<b>No. of exchange students Sem. 2</b>	<b>No. of exchange students on year abroad programme</b>
<b>2015/16</b>	32	22	8
<b>2016/17</b>	39	35	14
<b>2017/18</b>	55	31	6
<b>2018/19</b>	39	59	5
<b>2019/20</b>	56	42	6
<b>2020/21</b>	0	0	0
<b>2021/22</b>	21	30	Under 5
<b>2022/23</b>	32	24	Under 5
<b>2023/24</b>	26	37	0

Note regarding low numbers

We have redacted numbers under 5 in the table above, as these have potential to identify living individuals, which would count as personal data covered by the UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The University is required to consider legislative tests applying to personal data when a request is received. This includes where information, either on its own or in combination with other information, might lead to the identification of individuals and/or the disclosure of personal data about them, or their 'special categories' of personal data.

The University considers that to release the information requested would not be fair or lawful to the data subject(s) or would otherwise breach the Data Protection Principles (Article 5, General Data Protection Regulation). The University has therefore applied the exemption for personal data in section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and has withheld some of the requested information. Where applicable under the legislation, the University has also considered that the public interest test favours the withholding of the information on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the public knowing about the student experience, there is a greater public interest in ensuring the welfare, rights and freedoms of its students are protected from unlawful release of personal information that might identify them.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency ("HESA") has provided more information on redacting/disguising low numbers and data protection. HESA routinely does this and

is the UK higher education sector's leading statistical reporting and research body. Their information on low numbers is available to you at:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection/rounding-and-suppression-anonymise-statistics>

For more information, please refer to the Information Commissioner's Office guidance at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

This concludes the University's response.

### Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with our response or our reasoning set out above, you have 40 working days in which to require a review of our decision. Any such request should be put in writing and should be sent to the University Secretary, Abertay University, at the address provided below.

Vice Principal (Strategy and Governance) and University Secretary

Abertay University

Bell Street

Dundee

DD1 1HG

Tel (01382) 308000

E-mail: [FOI@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:FOI@abertay.ac.uk)

The request should:

- (a) detail your request for a review of our decision to be undertaken
- (b) describe the nature of your original request
- (c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with, you also have the right, in terms of section 47 of FOISA and section 17 of the EIRs, and within 6 months, to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether we have handled your request properly.

Information relating to your right to seek review is available from the Scottish Information Commissioner's website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info>

or by contacting the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Abertay University is a registered Scottish charity, no. SC016040

Scottish Information Commissioner,  
Kinburn Castle,  
Doubledykes Road, St Andrews,  
Fife KY16 9DS  
Telephone: 01334 464610  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)  
Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info>

Or via the SIC's online appeals service: <https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal>

If you are unhappy with the Commissioner's decision, you also have the right to appeal further to the Court of Session, on a point of law only, under section 56 of FOISA. Please refer to the Commissioner's website (details above) for further information about your right of appeal to the Court of Session.

Yours sincerely,  
FOI Processing  
Abertay University