



Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

Kamran Ali
request-754473-d537bb85@whatdotheyknow.com

12 May 2021

Freedom of Information,
Queen Margaret University,
EH21 6UU

Email: foi@qmu.ac.uk

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

REF: FOI 21-95

Dear Kamran

In response to your request for information received by the University on Tuesday 11 May 2021, please find the University's response on the next page.

Best wishes,

Queen Margaret University FOI

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

If you are not satisfied with the University's response and/or our reasoning, you have the right to request a review of our decision. The time lines in which this right is available are set out in section 20(5)(a) and (b) FOISA. In broad terms the right to seek a review must be exercised within 40 working days of receiving this response.

Any request for review should be put in writing or some other permanent form and sent to the University, for example by email to foi@qmu.ac.uk.

A request for a Review should:

- a) state your name and address;
- b) describe the nature of your original request; and
- 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 following Review, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) for a decision. In the event of an appeal to the SIC, the Commissioner will generally only be able to investigate the matters raised in the request for review. Details on how to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner is available on their website: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

I have an interest in how you have approached your graduation ceremonies during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please could you answer the following:

1) For your students who graduated in 2020, have they had an in-person graduation yet?

No. A graduation celebration planned for 13 July 2021 in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, has been cancelled recently in light of the current, and expected continuing, restrictions placed on large scale gatherings indoors in Scotland.

2) If no to question 1, are there plans to have an in-person graduation, when restrictions have been lifted? If so, will they be the same as previous cohorts (2019, 2018, etc.) and when are they currently planned for?

As noted above, there were plans for an in-person event on 13 July 2021 in the Usher Hall, now cancelled. In lieu of that, it is planned to hold a celebratory event for 2020 graduates at the University's campus on 13 July 2021. This is not the same experience as for pre-2020 cohorts, students of which graduated at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. However, graduates will have the opportunity to hire and be photographed in their graduation robes, and to meet with staff and other students. Time-tabled slots over the course of the day will take account of physical distancing arrangements in place / Covid Levels in place at that date.

Further information is available on the University's website: <https://www.qmu.ac.uk/current-students/current-students-general-information/graduation/>

3) For your students who are due to graduate in 2021, will they have an in-person graduation? If no, what are your plans for these students?

No, the graduation ceremonies planned for 14 July 2021 in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, have been cancelled on the grounds set out i.e. the current, and likely continued, restrictions placed on large scale gatherings indoors. In lieu of that, it is planned to hold a celebratory event for 2021 graduates at the University's campus on 14 July 2021.

Further information is available on the University's website: <https://www.qmu.ac.uk/current-students/current-students-general-information/graduation/>