



21 June 2021

File ref: FOI2021/00272

Kamran Ali

Sent by email: request-754508-  
bdcde636@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Kamran Ali

### **Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your email of 11 May 2021 requesting information about University in-person graduations. Please accept our apologies for the delay to our response to your request. The University's working practices are currently affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 430 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2019/20 our annual revenue was £1.12 billion, of which £296 million was research income. We have over 44,000 students and over 15,000 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.

### **University in-person graduation ceremonies**

You asked if students who graduated in 2020 have had an in-person graduation ceremony. If not, you also asked if there any plans to have in-person graduation ceremonies for this cohort once restrictions are lifted, when these are planned for, and if they will take the same format as ceremonies from previous years. Finally, you asked for information about the University's plan for students due to graduate in 2021.

The University took the decision to cancel all in-person graduation ceremonies for students who graduated in 2020, and those who are due to graduate in summer 2021.

We are exploring whether we can offer an outdoor option this summer and hope to provide further information by the end of June.

When it is safe to do so, all affected students will be invited to celebrate their achievements at an in-person event, the format of which has yet to be determined. Further information about the [University's graduation ceremonies](#) is published on the University's website, which is updated regularly.

## **Technical exemption**

Please note that as this information is available to you through the University website, it is technically exempt from the University's obligation to answer requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information is exempt under section 25(1) of this Act, because it is available to you by another route. This exemption is a technical matter only and does not affect your ability to obtain the information on-line.

If you do not have access to the Internet or would prefer to receive information in hard copy please let me know and I will arrange for printouts from the appropriate web pages to be sent to you.

## **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

**Tessa Ewart**  
Records Management Section

**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)**