



3 March 2020

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Ashley Monroe

Sent by email: request-632562-fb09594d@whatdotheyknow.com

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Dear Ashley Monroe

Freedom of information request

Thank you for your email of 8 January 2020 requesting information about start up and spin out companies. 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.

Spin out and start up companies

You asked for the number of scientific or engineering based start up and spin out companies which have been formed within the University of Edinburgh during the last five years. I have provided this information for calendar years 2015 to 2019 in table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of spin out and start-up companies formed, 2015 to 2019

Calendar year	Spin out companies	Start up companies
2015	5	15
2016	6	12
2017	4	7
2018	4	10
2019	3	9

You also asked how many of these companies received private investment of over £100,000 within one year of forming. Of these 75 companies, 48 have received private investment of over £100,000.

Finally, you asked for the typical percentage share of equity taken by the University in spin out companies over the specified timeframe, and whether this is negotiable. The percentage share taken by the University in new companies forms part of detailed negotiations, and will depend upon other factors on a case by case basis. Therefore, it is not possible to identify a typical share. Investment taken in spin out companies over the timeframe of your request has ranged from 10% to 47%.

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

Rob Don

Information Compliance Officer

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