



Refusal notice s.43 (2) Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Information withheld.

20th May 2019

Dear Abdul,

Thank you for your freedom of information request as received by this office on 30th April 2019. I would respond to the question raised with the exemption as beneath:

This request (beneath in red) is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we confirm the data is held.

London Campus

Can you tell me how many students are there?

Can you tell me how many are home and how many are international?

Section 43(2) FOIA 2000

The University considers that disclosure of the information which relates to your request would be commercially sensitive under s.43 (2) Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) and thus likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the University.

The University's student population at its London Campus, specifically the international student population, is constantly subject to change due to courses ending and, correspondingly, commencing, thus any figure would not be a true reflection of the number of student learners in an academic year. Additionally, by revealing the breakdown of students (particularly international students) at a specific campus this information may allow a rival competitor institution to analyse and evaluate the University's recruitment policies and the impact of its campus specific marketing strategy which was the result of significant work and expenditure. Therefore the University considers it more probable than not that harm would result from disclosing this information and that section 43(2) FOIA 2000 is therefore engaged.

Public Interest Test

The application of section 43(2) FOIA is the subject to the public interest test. We have considered where the public interest lies in this case and have taken account of the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office in doing so. This requires that the information should be disclosed where that disclosure would be in the greater public interest. This requires consideration of the interests of the public at large, not public curiosity or individual or private group interests.

We have taken account of the fact that there is an assumption that disclosure is in the public interest and that there is a general public interest in transparency and accountability for decision making (and especially financial decision making using public funds). However, these are not expected to be considered in a vacuum and need to be balanced against other public interests which favour withholding information.

We consider that there is a high probability of prejudice from disclosure of the commercially sensitive information under FOIA because disclosure is considered disclosure to the public at large and, to the extent this information would be likely to negatively impact upon the day to day operations of the University. In addition, we do not consider that these granular details add anything to the aggregate information already disclosed when analysing the public interest in the University's accountability for its overall spending.

As such, we do not consider that the disclosure of this withheld information would be likely to further the public interest, but it would be likely to cause harm to the University.

If you wish to request a review of the information provided as part of this freedom of information request you may contact my colleague Lee Bartlett lee.bartlett@uwtsd.ac.uk. If you remain dissatisfied following the review you may appeal to the Information Commissioner at ico.org.uk. Alternatively, you may write directly to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Osborne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Osborne BSocSc (Hons) LLM, Solicitor

Swyddog Diogelu Data / Data Protection Officer

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