



Room 111, Northcote House  
The Queen's Drive  
Exeter  
EX4 4QJ

Ref FOI20-124 Internal Review

Dear Tereza,

I am writing in relation to your complaint received on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, which I have considered under the University's Data Protection and Freedom of Information: Complaints Procedure (copy attached). On behalf of the University Registrar and Secretary, I conducted an independent investigation in accordance with this procedure.

Having carefully considered the evidence which has been provided to me, it is my view that due process has been followed by the University and I am satisfied that the University has responded adequately to your original request for information which referred to total EU student numbers receiving SLC funding. The exemptions were applied correctly on the basis that HESA could supply the data for total EU student numbers receiving SLC funding. However, during the course of the internal review, it became clear that your request was more specific and related to total EU student numbers receiving SLC funding split by UK and non-UK domicile. When you requested this further granularity from HESA, they were not able to provide it.

In summary, the exemptions (21, 22, 43, and 40) were applied correctly to the original request, as the data applicable to total EU student numbers is available through HESA. However, after clarification of the required split of UK and Non-UK students (which is not available through HESA) we can now supply the further detail requested (Table 1). I hope you find this outcome satisfactory. Please note though that data for 2019/20 will not be available until the end of the academic year due to low numbers and the increased likelihood of disclosing personal data should the figures change within the academic year. They are therefore also exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the FOIA.

**Table 1. FOI request 120-124:**

Headcount of EU students receiving SLC funding split by UK and non-UK domicile

Academic year	Non-UK	UK	Total EU
2015/6	473	13,362	13,835
2016/7	563	14,306	14,869
2017/8	502	14,464	14,966
2018/9	434	14,874	15,308

This outcome exhausts the University's procedures for dealing with such matters. If you are not content with the outcome of my internal review, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), who regulate the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The ICO have a duty to investigate complaints from members of the public who believe an authority has failed to handle or respond to a request for information correctly. Requests for review by the Information Commissioner should be made in writing within 40 days of our response, to:

*The Case Reception Unit, Customer Service Team, The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.*

Yours Sincerely

**Fiona Kugele**

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