



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

Jen Persson
WhatDoTheyKnow.com

19 December 2018

Our reference: FOI2018111602

Dear J Persson

Freedom of Information Act - Request for Information

Thank you for your email of 28 November 2018. You made the following information request:

Please can you provide information pertaining to any data analytics software used by the university using personal data about your students and staff, since 2012.

- 1a). Whether you are using any data analytics software at all:
- 1b) if so, which ones?
- 1c) what date this data analytics processing began?
- 1d) indicate whether in the past and ended, or still in current use

Clarification –

Question 1: any data analytics software used by the university

1a) using personal data about your students and staff, since 2012.

For example for the purposes of profiling, to create dashboards, comparative attainment --

b) asks for those software to be listed. These may be commercial products, or internally designed software.

2a). Any predictive analytics software such as used in but not only, Blackboard, Xray and JISC supported Civitas.

2b) if so, which ones?

2c) what date this analytics processing began for predictive purposes?

Clarification –

Question 2.

"such as Blackboard." This may be any module, but cannot be tightly narrowed since it may or not be this product that your university uses. Perhaps a sentence may help explain which applies, if the respondent thinks it necessary to clarify.

3. If the answer to Q1a or Q2a is yes, please provide a copy of any contract terms on using the data by the provider company including

- a) the data items feeding analytics, any profiling, and/or used in prediction
- b) what the prediction purposes / aims are
- c) training the software (such as AI and machine learning) by the provider using the data provided via your organisation.

Secretariat

4. Whether the University is using its own student or staff population data for machine learning for purposes not included in 1-3 above? (ie but not only, within the university computing department for any project or with another third-party)

Clarification –

This may be pertinent to either the University's ICT department, or the School of Computer Science. The question is to ascertain whether or not general student and staff data are made available for internal university purposes, of machine learning or AI projects, regardless of the name of the computing centre.

5. From which time periods were the student or staff data collected which are processed in any of the above (ie not only, retrospective student data from the last ten years / only current intake which began in autumn term 2018)?

6. How many people/user accounts have access to the whole population student data in any of the above in this calendar year?

I have processed your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and can confirm the University of Lincoln holds some of the requested information, which has been provided below;

1. The University of Lincoln currently doesn't use any data analytics software. The University carries out basic analysis and presentation of data (in the form of data dashboards) using SQL and Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services.
2. My enquiries indicate that the University of Lincoln does not use "predictive analytics". The University's central Planning and Business Intelligence department does not use "predictive analytics" software.
3. Not applicable – the data warehouse was developed internally.
4. No information held
5. No information held
6. The majority of data dashboards are available to the whole staff body with some restrictions around data of a confidential and sensitive nature.

I hope the above information meets your requirements. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 01522 886618 or by email at ntimings@lincoln.ac.uk.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information, you can request a review by writing within 40 working days to:

Information Compliance
University of Lincoln
Brayford Pool
Lincoln
LN6 7TS

Email: compliance@lincoln.ac.uk

Secretariat

The University will respond to a request for review within 20 working days of receipt of the request.

Yours sincerely

Naomi Timings
Information Compliance Officer

Secretariat