



Department of Strategic Planning and Governance
Director: Anna Verhamme

yr Adran Cynllunio a Llywodraethu Strategol
Cyfarwyddwr: Anna Verhamme

Cardiff University
Friary House
Greyfriars Road
Cardiff CF10 3AE

Tel Ffôn I +44(0)29 2087 9461
Email Ebst inforequest@cardiff.ac.uk
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
2il Lawr Tŷ Friary
Heol y Brodyr Llwydion
Caerdydd CF10 3AE

12 February 2019

Our Ref : FOI18-440
Your ref:

Sent via E-mail only to: Basia Cummings <request-532022-7f451213@whatdotheyknow.com>

Dear Basia

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I am writing in response to your email of 1 February 2019 in which you requested a review under Cardiff University's (the University) Freedom of Information Complaints Procedure, of the response to your Freedom of Information request FOI18-440.

Your request for an internal review has been passed to me for consideration as Director of Strategic Planning and Governance. My role as a reviewer is to undertake a fair and thorough examination of the decisions taken pursuant to the Act. In undertaking the review I have reconsidered all factors relevant to the issue, University policies, and guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office. You can find further information on that procedure at the following web address: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/freedom-of-information/complaints>

Decision

Following due consideration of the case I have concluded that the original response to your FOI request was justified. As such my finding is that your complaint is **not upheld**.

I set out below your request for review and the key issues that have been considered in reaching this decision.

Request for review

"In relation to your response regarding my request for total enrolled student numbers, I would like to request an internal review of this decision.

In your decision notice, you confirm the University holds the information I have requested. You refer me to another public body which has published parts of the requested data online, but you concede that I will need to submit a further request to that body to obtain all my of the requested data.

I do not believe this is in the spirit of the FOIA. I ask that you reconsider your decision regarding the release of data, specifically that not published already by HESA, regarding student enrolment at the University."

Basis for Decision

In our response we stated that we hold data on enrolled students, however to clarify, this data is held in a number of formats across the University and relates to a very wide variety of categories of students, for example whether they are undergraduate, postgraduates research or taught, full time or part time, home, EU, or international etc. The University has a legal duty to supply data on students to HESA on an annual basis as part of an annual return which HESA then collates and presents in a variety of formats. We and other HE institutions, regularly refer requests for statistical information to HESA as HESA was established to collect, analyse and disseminate accurate statistical information across the HE sector, providing a central source of statistical information. Data is checked against rigorous quality standards which allows comparable data to be requested on all HE providers.

The data on numbers of enrolled students which you have requested is instantly available for the years 2014-15 – 2017-18 from the HESA website at <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/where-study> and obtaining the remaining two years of data for 2012-13 and 2013-14 from HESA will ensure that the data is in a consistent and comparable format. HESA will undertake some work for free and will only charge for analysis which will take significant time. Referring requests for data to HESA enables the requestor to obtain the data quickly and also saves duplication of effort by HE institutions in producing data which is available from an alternative source. This is arguably not in the public interest as this involves the use of public funds.

In reaching our conclusion in referring you to HESA for the information, we have considered the specific ICO guidance regarding information accessible by other means and in particular Para 32. Section 21(2)(b) which states that "where there is a legal duty to make information available, it can be considered to be reasonably accessible to the applicant, whether or not payment is required." This guidance can be found at: <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf>

We therefore uphold our decision that the information is reasonably accessible to you from another source (HESA) and therefore the University considers the information requested to be exempt from release under section 21 of the FOI Act 2000.

Information Commissioner's Office

If you still believe that the University has not met its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioners Office to review your case. Contact details as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Verhamme', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anna Verhamme
Director of Strategic Planning and Governance
Department of Strategic Planning and Governance
Cardiff University