



Ref. FOI/20200122/4

12 February 2020

| Reply to request for information under Freedom of Information of Act |  |
|--|--|
| Your Ref   | Email of 22 January 2020   |
| Address  | request-637840-9d90b5d6@whatdotheyknow.com   |
| Request  | <p>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:</p> <p>Records on undergraduate student drop out rates from 1997-present date, including what courses the relevant students were on, what year of study they were in when they officially dropped out, the date they ceased studies, their age and their gender. I would also request information regarding the level of maintenance loan they were receiving during their studies, as well as any additional relevant bursaries, grants or other financial support.</p> <p>Please provide the information in the form of an excel spreadsheet.</p> |

Dear Saskia

I write in response to your email of 22 January, requesting the above information. Please find the data, which is held by the University in the attached spreadsheet.

Some of the categories contained very small numbers of individuals, and we have redacted the data where fewer than three were in a particular category.

In redacting this information, we are applying the exemption in section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Section 40(2) provides an exemption from disclosure for information that is the personal data of an individual other than the requester, where disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We consider that disclosure of the information requested in the form requested would breach the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would be unfair to the individuals concerned, as it would be contrary to their reasonable and legitimate expectations. They would not reasonably expect that information about their experience at university would be made public under the FOIA without their consent.

For the disclosure of personal data to be lawful, it must have a lawful basis under Article 6 of the GDPR. There are six possible lawful bases in Article 6; we do not consider that any of them would be satisfied in respect of the disclosure.

The exemption in section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test provided for in section 2(2)(b) of the FOIA.

## INTERNAL REVIEW

If you are dissatisfied with this reply, you may ask the University to review it, by writing to the Head of Information Compliance at the following address:

University Offices  
Wellington Square  
Oxford  
OX1 2JD

Alternatively, you may request a review by e-mailing [foi@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:foi@admin.ox.ac.uk). A request for internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days from the date of this letter.

### **THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

If, after the internal review, you are still dissatisfied, you have the right under FOIA to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether your request has been dealt with in accordance with the FOIA. You can do this online using the [Information Commissioner's complaints portal](#).

If you choose to do this by post, the Information Commissioner's address is:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123113

Yours sincerely

**FOI OXFORD**