

Jen Persson  
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18 December 2019  
Our Ref: FOI/1920/060

Dear Jen

### **Your Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 28 November 2019 requesting a review of the University's response to your freedom of information request. The purpose of this appeal is to review the original response and confirm whether it has been dealt with correctly. For ease of reference, a copy of your request and our response is attached at Appendix 1.

### **Outcome of internal review**

#### *Review of decision to withhold information*

The University's Compliance Officer declined to provide the number of students currently enrolled as this information is routinely published as part of the University's annual HESA return, which is publicly available.

I have reviewed the Compliance Officer's response and agree that given the amount of resource which the University commits to producing the HESA return, it is not generally in the public interest to duplicate this work in response to freedom of information requests. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 contains exemptions relating to information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means (section 21) and information intended for future publication (section 22) for this reason. However, in this case we have decided to provide the information requested and it is set out below.

### **Information requested**

There are currently 15,223 students actively enrolled.

### **Your right to seek a review**

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for review you may ask the Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your complaint in writing to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving the response to review letter. The Commissioner may be contacted at:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



**Samantha Burns**  
**Acting General Counsel**

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Your request	Our response
<p><i>For all students that may physically attend the university site(s):</i></p> <p>Q1. How many students are currently actively enrolled?</p>	<p>This information is available for academic years up to and including 2017/18 from HESA (<a href="https://www.hesa.ac.uk/">https://www.hesa.ac.uk/</a>) and is exempt from separate disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") (information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means). HESA can advise on which of their datasets will contain this information. Alternatively, HESA may be able to provide a bespoke report. Please see <a href="https://www.hesa.ac.uk/services/custom/data">https://www.hesa.ac.uk/services/custom/data</a> for information on how to request data from HESA.</p> <p>The information for 2018/19 and for 2019/20 is intended for future publication by the same means and will be made available by HESA according to their publishing schedule. As such it is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Act.</p> <p>As required by the Act, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest to provide the data for 2018/19 prior to publication by HESA. Whilst we acknowledge the need for transparency and the public interest in matters of student welfare, in our view the balance of the public interest lies in ensuring that interested parties have access to the final version of our data as provided to HESA as part of our annual reporting exercise. This will also provide comparable data from other institutions.</p>
<p>Q2. What is the requirement to digitally register for lectures or classes ie: to sign in on arrival / with what frequency?</p>	<p>Please see the Attendance Monitoring Policy (<a href="http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/guidelines/policy/">http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/guidelines/policy/</a>) and guidance for Tier 4 students on the Student FAQs page (<a href="http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/faq/student-faqs/">http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/faq/student-faqs/</a>).</p>
<p>Q3. Which technology are used? (ie. with an RFID chipped badge / swipe card / fingerprint / camera using facial recognition etc)</p>	<p>Swipe access.</p>
<p>Q4. Do you use lecture capture to record lectures?</p>	<p>Yes. Please see <a href="http://replay.tlc.aston.ac.uk/homepage/">http://replay.tlc.aston.ac.uk/homepage/</a>.</p>

Q5. Does lecture capture record voice of the students as well as the lecturer?	Students are informed in advance that their questions or comments may be captured, and they are given the opportunity to ask for recording to be stopped if they object. Please see <a href="http://replay.tlc.aston.ac.uk/help/record/inform-students/">http://replay.tlc.aston.ac.uk/help/record/inform-students/</a> .
<i>Additional for Tier 4 visa students:</i> Q6. Some students are required to have UK visas. How many of your students currently are required to do this?	Information on the nationalities of our students is available from HESA (please see question 1). The number of students required to register with the police can be extrapolated from this data.
Q7a. What is the requirement to digitally register for lectures or classes ie: to sign in on arrival?	Please see the Attendance Monitoring Policy ( <a href="http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/guidelines/policy/">http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/guidelines/policy/</a> ) and guidance for Tier 4 students on the Student FAQs page ( <a href="http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/faq/student-faqs/">http://myattendance.tlc.aston.ac.uk/faq/student-faqs/</a> ).
Q7b. Which technology are used (ie. With an RFID chipped badge / swipe card / fingerprint / camera using facial recognition etc)?	
Q8. How often must students register on site at the university due to their visa requirements in addition to lectures or classes ie. weekly / monthly / termly?	Please see <a href="https://www2.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/visacompliance">https://www2.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/visacompliance</a> .
Q9. To whom must students register (to fulfil Q8). Such as a university office / NUS body / Student Immigration Advice Team?	
Q10. a) Some nationals are required to register with the police as part of their visa conditions. How many of your students currently are required to do this?	Information on the nationalities of our students is available from HESA. The number of students required to register with the police can be extrapolated from this data. Please see question 1 above.
Q10. b) How often is each student required to register with the police as part of their visa conditions over the course of their studies? (ie on arrival once / termly / etc)	Please see guidance at <a href="https://www2.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/iss/visas/police-registration/index">https://www2.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/iss/visas/police-registration/index</a> .