

Emily Norman-Murphy
By email: request-832813-83f1cb7d@whatdotheyknow.com>

14 March 2022

Dear Emily Norman-Murphy,

G00850: Freedom of Information Request

We refer to your request for information dated 14/02/2022 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act").

Please find below your question, with the University's corresponding response.

Question

CAUTION: This e-mail originated outside the University of Southampton.

Dear University of Southampton,

Under the Freedom of Information act, I would like to know for the following programs:

Public Health (MSc)

Public Health Global Health (MSc)

Public Health Management (MSc)

Public Health Intelligence (MSc)

for the 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20 admission cycles:

- the number of applications,
- the number of offers made,
- the number of acceptances,
- the number of enrolments.

Yours faithfully,
Emily Norman-Murphy

Answer

In accordance with [Section 1\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Act, we confirm that the University holds the information of the description specified in your request.

Enrolment figures can be found through HESA for academic year 2019/20 and 2020/21 only as 2021/22 it is not available yet - <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students>. For enrolment data at programme level please consult Jisc <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/data-and-analytics>.

As part of the information you have requested is available at this time or in the near future, through HESA and Jisc, it is reasonably accessible to you by other means, and the disclosure is exempt by virtue of [section 21](#).

The balance of the information sought is commercially exempt. As Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, the University has considered the [public interest test](#):

Factors favouring disclosure

- Openness and Transparency: it is in the public interest that the University, as a public authority, is as open and transparent as possible in the way that we operate and the way in which decisions are made.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

- Commercial strategy: it is not in the public interest to disclose information that would undermine the University's capacity to effectively compete with other higher education providers. Higher education providers are in a highly competitive market and sharing the requested information would harm the University's ability to compete for students since if it was disclosed, the information requested could be freely exploited by the University's competitors to modify their own commercial strategy around admissions for similar programmes.

Revealing the information sought would be detrimental to the University's competitive prospects by giving competitors an insight into the performance of these programmes and enable them to adopt a commercial strategy which targets these student populations.

Given the above considerations, the University concludes that it is in the greater public interest not to disclose the information at this time. We hope you understand that there is a need to balance Freedom of Information with our ability to offer the best standards in teaching and research.

If you do not feel that we have dealt with your request in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act, you may request a review. Your request for a review **must** specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act have not been met; mere dissatisfaction with our response is insufficient. Please address your request for a review by completing the [form](#) and selecting Fol Review.

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must be sent within 40 working days of the date of this letter. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days. We will acknowledge your request for a review and endeavour to respond within 20 working days of its receipt but please note that a deadline for a review response is not prescribed by the Act.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for enforcing rights of access to information and the operation of the publication scheme. You may apply to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements of [Part 1](#) of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally act unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,

for

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Response to Information provided by the University of Southampton
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/university_of_southampton