

By email only to: request- 632864-789de84f@whatdotheyknow.com

26 February 2020

Dear Ashley Monroe,

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Request for information: Response
Date of request: 9 January 2020
Due date: 6 February 2020
Ref: RITM0254915

We refer to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act"). Please accept our apologies for the delayed response.

Below is your question with the University's corresponding response.

Question

I am writing to you with the hope that you will be able to answer my following questions about Spin Out companies.

- 1) How many scientific or engineering based start up companies and spin out companies have been created from your University each year for the last 5 years?
- 2) Of these companies, how many of them received private investment of over £100,000 within 1 year of starting up?
- 3) What is the typical % share of equity the University has taken in Spin Out companies each year for the last 5 years? Is this negotiable?

Response:

In accordance with [section 1\(a\)](#) of the Act, we confirm that the University holds information of the description specified in your request. The answers to your questions are as follows:

- 1) You can see the University's data which is publically available on the HESA returns for all UK Universities. The information you have requested is publically available from the following site:
<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/business-community>
[<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hesa.ac.uk%2Fdata-and-analysis%2Fbusiness-community&data=01%7C01%7Cfoi%40soton.ac.uk%7C9490dd55ab164d1db26608d7b3af6094%7C4a53>]

78f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0&sdata=Ijk5cw276nS79FPj8j50LJxd4EcyfEE3fK0kZL4eIWM%3D&reserved=0]

The specific on spinouts (with or without ownership to University) and start ups is available here

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/business-community/ip-and-startups>

[<https://eur03-safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hesa.ac.uk%2Fdata-and-analysis%2Fbusiness-community%2Fip-and-startups&data=01%7C01%7Cfoi%40soton.ac.uk%7C9490dd55ab164d1db26608d7b3af6094%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0&sdata=vv341yb8HF7kfpAWBy8o%2FuF4DvJYz6%2BMfk4zRaYfevU%3D&reserved=0>]

2) The information you have requested is publically available from the following site:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/business-community/ip-and-startups>

[<https://eur03-safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hesa.ac.uk%2Fdata-and-analysis%2Fbusiness-community%2Fip-and-startups&data=01%7C01%7Cfoi%40soton.ac.uk%7C9490dd55ab164d1db26608d7b3af6094%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0&sdata=vv341yb8HF7kfpAWBy8o%2FuF4DvJYz6%2BMfk4zRaYfevU%3D&reserved=0>]

Only one of the spinouts in which the University has taken some equity (ownership) has not received more than £100k of investment in their first year over this period.

HESA provides detailed data and analysis about the activities of universities, and is the official agency for the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative information about higher education in the UK.

As the information you have requested in questions 1 and 2 is available through the provided links, it is reasonably accessible to you by other means, and the disclosure is exempt by virtue of [section 21](#) of the Act.

3) The University doesn't always take equity in the spinouts. As can be seen from the HESA data.

When we do decide to take equity we have a standard 1/3rd pre money start up figure to the University and 2/3rd to the inventor and Founder group. This is a standard and only negotiable in exceptional circumstances.

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 should specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) have not been met. Please address your request to the Chief Operating Officer at the following address: foi@soton.ac.uk.

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must sent within 40 working days of the date of this email. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days.

We will endeavour to respond to your request for a review within 20 working days of receipt.

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 I of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally take action unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,

foi

REF: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ACT 2000 | LEGAL SERVICES -- FOI@SOTON.AC
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