

By email only to: request-637844-f40245ca@whatdotheyknow.com

28 February 2020

Dear Myles Jordan Bond

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request for information: Response

Date of request: 22 January 2020

Due date: 19 February 2020

Ref: RITM0258659

We refer to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you. Below is your question with the University's corresponding response.

Question

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information: Records on student dropout rates from 1997-present date of undergraduate students, 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.

Response:

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

Data before 2003 is not in our current record system, we are therefore unable to provide this information.

We are unable to provide information on the level of maintenance loan support students received during their studies as this information is not shared with the University by the Student Loans Company.

While the University does hold data on student dropout rates of undergraduate students, 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, the information you have requested is publicly available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA): <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications>

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.

HESA also provides custom data analysis requests, including a detailed custom analysis about the University of Southampton: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/services/custom/data/timescales-costs>]

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

Information about bursaries, grants and financial support is not held centrally and would require going into individual records. Whilst we hold the requested information, we are unable to provide it, as it is exempt from disclosure by virtue of [Section 40\(2\)](#) of the Act. The information requested constitutes an individual's personal data as defined under [Section 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018](#). To release the information would breach the first data protection principle of the Data Protection Principles concerning fairness. Section 40(2) of the Act confers an absolute exemption.

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 be 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,

