

By email only to: request-688790-8835e979@whatdotheyknow.com

29 September 2020

Dear Ramzy Alwakeel,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request for information: response

Date of request: 2 September 2020

Due date: 2 October 2020

Ref: RITM0319385

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

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

Question:

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my enquiry as specifically as possible. If however this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you would contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters.

I am looking at the number of students who have deferred their place at university until the 2021/22 academic year.

As such, I am looking for answers to the following questions:

1. How many students have deferred their place at the university until the 2021/22 academic year?
2. What is the expected size of the cohort of students starting at the university in the 2021/22 academic year?
3. How many students have/ will start at the university in the 2020/21 academic year, having deferred their place?
4. What was the size of the cohort of students who started studying at the university in the 2020/21 academic year?

5. How many students started at the university in the 2019/20 academic year, having deferred their place?

6. What was the size of the cohort of students who started studying at the university in the 2019/20 academic year?

I understand that under the Act, I should be entitled to a response within 20 working days. I would be grateful if you would confirm in writing that you have received this request.

I would really appreciate your help with this request – I look forward to hearing from you.

Answer:

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

The information you have requested is publicly available from UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/>

UCAS provides all pre-enrolment data including applications (except interview data – UCAT details and interview numbers etc) is available either now or in the future from UCAS:

find course details, number of applications, number of students placed, number of offers and deferred status here: <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/data-products-and-services/exact>

UCAS data for the 2019/20 data is usually published around Christmas (their website says "As in previous years, UCAS is publishing the End of Cycle Report in several chapters, throughout November, December, and January"); they make it available to purchase around the same time as they publish this. However, the last period currently available should be 2019 end of cycle.

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

Regarding 2020/2021/ 2021/22, this information should be published on the above UCAS website in , and so is exempt from disclosure by virtue of [Section 22](#) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, subject to a public interest test.

In assessing the public interest test we have considered [recommendations](#) by the Information Commissioner's Office. As section 22 is a qualified exemption, the University consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information. Where the public interest is equally balanced, the authority must disclose the requested information.

As this data will be published within the reasonably near future, it would not be of greater public interest to disclose this data prior to the UCAS publication date.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 | LEGAL SERVICES – FOI@SOTON.AC.UK

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,



Freedom of Information Office

email: foi@soton.ac.uk

Ref:MSG9426197