

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 06 August 2020 15:27

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/264)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/264)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 14 July 2020, reference K/20/264.

Your request read:

“T levels

Will you be accepting T levels as equal to three A levels for applicants to undergraduate courses from 2022?

Degree Apprenticeships

How many degree apprenticeship courses does the university currently offer? Please could you list them?

How many students – broken down by course – are currently studying a degree apprenticeship at the university?

Does the university plan to expand the number of degree apprenticeship courses?

How much government funding – broken down into the last three academic years – has the university attracted through degree apprenticeships?

How much other funding has been attracted through degree apprenticeships in each of the last three academic years?”

The University of Leeds holds some information relevant to your request.

Will you be accepting T levels as equal to three A levels for applicants to undergraduate courses from 2022?

The University of Leeds is yet to establish a position on this qualification. A thorough review of the specifications relating to the three relevant strands of the first phase of T-levels is underway to establish whether the academic content suitably prepares the students to succeed on related undergraduate degree programmes offered by the University:

- Digital production, design and development
- Design, surveying and planning
- Education and Childcare

How many degree apprenticeship courses does the university currently offer? Please could you list them?

How many students – broken down by course – are currently studying a degree apprenticeship at the university?

We hold this information, and address these questions together. We consider that the exact number of students is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43(2) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if its release would or would be likely to reveal commercially sensitive information. In this case, due to the competitive nature of degree apprenticeship, we consider that to reveal the exact number of registered apprentices and the exact amount of government funding received would reveal to competitor organisations our current capacity and could reveal the identities of our Employer Partners. This information could be used to:

- gain a competitive advantage in tender exercises;
- undercut the University in charges for apprenticeship training (when not acquired through a tender process);
- target our Employer partners for business and;
- reveal our Employer Partners employee (apprentice) numbers.

Releasing this information would therefore be likely to jeopardise the trust between our Employer Partners and the University, in turn severely undermining our ability to work with them, as key partners, in future. This would impact future provision of degree apprenticeships. This clearly demonstrates the prejudice which would be likely to occur should this information be released.

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, which means we are required to consider the public interest for and against the disclosure of the information. We recognise that there is some public interest in understanding the popularity of these courses. It is important to demonstrate that courses are meeting the needs of apprentices and industry, and this need can in part be met by revealing how many apprentices are taking the courses. However, we also consider that there is a very strong public interest in ensuring that we can continue to provide degree apprenticeships. It is therefore in the public interest to ensure that any information which would be likely to jeopardise the financial viability of these courses is protected from disclosure. On balance, it is our conclusion that the public interest is in favour of protecting the information. In order to address the interest in the popularity of these courses, we have provided the approximate number of apprentices at each apprenticeship level. This demonstrates the rough numbers of apprentices, without jeopardising the commercial interests of the University of Leeds.

Please find the information we are able to disclose contained within the tables below

DA programme title
Level 5 Foundation Degree Healthcare for Assistant Practitioners
Level 5 Foundation Degree Nursing Associate
Level 6 BSc Chartered Manager
Level 6 BSc Registered Nursing Degree Apprenticeship
Level 6 BSc Computer Science (Digital & Technology Solutions)
Level 7 MSc Senior Leadership

DA level	Approximate number of apprentices registered
Level 5	120
Level 6	250
Level 7	75

Does the university plan to expand the number of degree apprenticeship courses?

We will offer a further degree apprenticeship from September 2020; Level 7 MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

How much government funding – broken down into the last three academic years – has the university attracted through degree apprenticeships?

How much other funding has been attracted through degree apprenticeships in each of the last three academic years?

We address these questions together. We are withholding the exact value of funding under section 43(2) as outlined above.

Calendar year	Approx. value of Government funding received	Non-Government funding received
2018	£200,000	0
2019	£1.5 million	0
2020 (up to and including June 2020)	£900,000	0

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
Deputy Secretary
The University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University's response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

Chloe Wilkins

Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat

University of Leeds