

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 21 September 2020 16:00

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/338)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/338)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 2 September 2020, reference K/20/338.

Your request read:

“I would like to know the breakdown of the newly-admitted 2020 cohort by school type. Please could you tell me:

- 1) The number of students admitted this year, by type of school (non-selective state, selective state, independent, etc)
- 2) How many students were admitted who missed the grades of their offers?
 - I think the easiest way to define this is students who held grades lower than their offer grades at the point the offer was confirmed. Although if you hold similar data on this, with a slightly different definition, but to the same effect, I'm happy to receive that instead.
 - If you hold a breakdown of this data by school type, please also provide that.
- 3) How many students deferred their places on or after results day?
 - Please provide a breakdown of these students by school type, if held
- 4) Details of any incentives offered to students on or after results day to defer their places
 - Again, if you hold a breakdown by school type of the students who accepted/were given these incentives, please provide that.

I would also like the same figures for the previous two years (2018 and 2019) for each of these points, if held.”

The University of Leeds may hold some of information relevant to your request. However, we consider that to respond to question two of your request would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the FOI Act. Section 12(1) states that a public authority can refuse a request if complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. For the purposes of FOI, time spent on the permitted activities is calculated at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. The appropriate limit therefore represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours to determine whether the information is held, and to locate, retrieve and extract the information.

We have outlined the reasons for invoking Section 12(1) below.

The position on acceptance of new students (i.e. whether they met, or missed their offer and by how much) are not held in a central system, but instead are held by the individual Schools (i.e. the grades of new Medicine and Surgery students are held by the School of Medicine). Once an offer is made and accepted, there is no particular need for Schools to keep a record of the exact position of applicants, and as such this information is not readily to hand. This also means that there is no guarantee that information in relation to earlier years (2018 and 2019 entry) will be retained. There are 33 individual schools within the University. Even at a very conservative estimate of one hour per school to locate and retrieve this information, which we expect is held in the form of spreadsheets (which will also contain other information irrelevant to your request) this would take approximately 33 hours, which is more than the 18-hour limit set out at section 12(1) of the FOI Act.

As such, if you were to reduce the scope of your request to 2020 entry only, and to a limited number of schools, we may be able to provide a further response. We can also advise that we do not hold information on whether schools and colleges charge fees or have entrance exams, and as such we will not be able to provide any information in respect of your first question.

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