

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 12 October 2020 15:38

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/372)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/372)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 23 September 2020, reference K/20/372.

Your request read:

“I am a studying how Universities have reduced their CO2 emissions.

1) I have looked at the most recent 2018/19 Estates HESA data for “Table 3 - Emissions and waste” and field: “Total scope 1 and 2 emission baseline for 2005 (tonnes CO2e)”.

This field shows a total of 64,142 CO2e for the 2005 emission baseline.

2) The BriteGreen report from April 2014 shows a baseline figure of 69,445 CO2e.

http://www.eauc.org.uk/file_uploads/brite_green_university_carbon_reduction_league_table.pdf

Does the University hold information showing that the 2005 baseline 64,142 is the correct CO2e figure and that this figure includes the 2011/12 onwards adjustment.

An adjustment was needed as an alternative Defra measure of equivalent carbon dioxide (CO2e) was applied past 2011/12. This change accounts for additional Greenhouse Gases, including CH4 and N2O and not just CO2 pre 2011/12.”

The University of Leeds holds information relevant to your request.

The figures we report to HESA are generated by following their instructions and as such since the 2011/12 submission the Defra conversion factors for equivalent carbon dioxide have been used. In addition, in 2013 the Defra methodology for calculating emissions factors was changed (as detailed in the Defra document [“2013 Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting: Methodology Paper for Emission Factors”](#)), and Defra recommended that recalculation for baseline years was carried out so that emissions reductions reported are accurate. This new baseline figure was first reported to HESA in the 2013/14 report; the BriteGreen Report from April 2014 would have been compiled before this data was available.

We can confirm that we hold information showing that the 2005 baseline 64,142 is correct and has been generated using current Defra and HESA recommendations.

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