Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/228)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 16 June 2020, reference K/20/228.

Your request read:

“Please may you tell me the following:
• How many students have deferred for the academic year 2020/2021?
• Out of the students who have deferred, how many of these were international students?
• Out of the students who have deferred how many of these were related to the COVID-19 pandemic?”

The University of Leeds holds some information relevant to your request. We hold recorded information demonstrating the number of students who have deferred entry, and the proportion of those deferrals which come from international students. We do not hold information regarding the reasons for deferrals.

We consider that the information held by the University engages the exemption set out at section 43(2) of the FOI Act. Section 43(2) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation, unless there is an overwhelming public interest in disclosure.

Information on the numbers of deferrals during the course of the current applications cycle could be used to make inferences as to how the university is dealing with requests for deferrals from applicants. This in turn may affect our own commercial sustainability in the higher education marketplace, since such information may be useful to competitor institutions and could inform their own policies regarding how to deal with the issue. If potential students were attracted to other institutions as a result, then the university would suffer financially. This would not be in the public interest. We are therefore satisfied that the exemption is appropriately engaged.

Should you wish to resubmit your request after the current application cycle has completed, we may be able to reconsider the release of this information.

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.

Yours sincerely

**Chloe Wilkins**
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds