Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/240)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 26 June 2020, reference K/20/240.

Your request read:

“Please can you provide me with the following information from the last three academic years:

The number of students attending the University who are receiving/entitled to Disabled Students Allowance.

The number of students attending the university who are receiving Disabled Students Allowance that entitles them to support from the university (i.e. tutoring, mentoring, exam adjustments).

The number of students who did not receive this support in its entirety (i.e. students who did not receive all the tutoring/mentoring etc. that their DSA entitled them to)”

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

It may help if we first explain the reasons it is not possible to respond to your questions in their current form.

There is no requirement for students to notify the University of any Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) award or eligibility. As such, the limited information we do hold relates only to those cases where the student has elected to advise us, or where the recommended support involves action on the part of the University.

It is not possible for us to provide information broken down by academic (or any other) year. Students can apply for DSA at any point in their studies, meaning that they may be awarded DSA at a midpoint through the year. Furthermore, some support may be one-offs (e.g. a laptop), “received” once, but which continue to offer the student benefit throughout the duration of their studies. As such, there is no meaningful way of breaking down this information into years.

There are also many reasons a student may not access the support they are eligible for/entitled to. Some DSA allowances for support are allocated on an annual basis (for instance, budgets for personal assistants). Students who apply late on in their studies may not therefore have sufficient time to access their full entitlement even though it is available to them. It is a student’s choice as to how much of their support...
they access — therefore students may choose not to use their full allowance. Students may utilise support initially, before changing their mind (for instance, deciding that they do not find the support to be of benefit), again not accessing all of their support. This does not reflect a lack of support or provision. Where support is unavailable via the recommended supplier, students have the choice to seek support from an alternative supplier. In some cases, students may choose to wait until their original supplier has availability rather than move to another supplier, again impacting on their ability to access their full entitlement.

We have provided the information we hold in relation to each of your questions in turn below.

1. **The number of students attending the University who are receiving/entitled to Disabled Students Allowance.**

As above, there is no requirement for students to notify the university of any disability or whether they are in receipt of DSA. As such, we do not hold this exact information. However, we publish the number of students who self-report a disability; this is available on our [Equality Data](#) pages (starting with the 2019/20 data hyperlinked, you can access previous years’ data via the links on the left-hand side of the web pages).

2. **The number of students attending the university who are receiving Disabled Students Allowance that entitles them to support from the university (i.e. tutoring, mentoring, exam adjustments).**

As above, we do not hold information in relation to students for whom the University is either unaware of them accessing DSA, or where the University is not the recommended supplier. However, we can advise that the number of students currently accessing both DSA and Non-Medical Helper support is 561.

3. **The number of students who did not receive this support in its entirety (i.e. students who did not receive all the tutoring/mentoring etc. that their DSA entitled them to)***

We do not hold this information. By default, we are only aware of a sub-set of cases where support is being accessed.

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](mailto: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
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