Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/121)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 27 August 2020, reference K/21/121.

Your request read:

“1. How were decisions made by Leeds following the announcement by the Government and its U-turn on 17 Aug regarding how to allocate places on the Psychology BSc course? What was taken into account when giving places to students?

2. How many places were offered and accepted in clearing following A Level results day on 13 Aug 2020 on the Psychology BSc course?

3. Of the places mentioned in 2 above, how many of those applicants were accepted with A Level grades ABB or equivalent of grades ABB?

4. What was the original cap or capacity for the 2020 intake for students to study an undergraduate Psychology BSc course at Leeds?

5. How many students have been accepted to study Psychology BSc in Sept 2020 and how many students hold deferred places to start in 2021? Of those starting in 2021 is this for a Sept 2021 start date?

6. Of the students that have secured a place at Leeds on the Psychology BSc course, starting in Sept 2020 or who have been deferred to 2021, how many of those students had Leeds as their original (i) firm choice and (ii) insurance? Please confirm this for each intake year, 2020 and 2021.”

The University of Leeds holds this information.

1. How were decisions made by Leeds following the announcement by the Government and its U-turn on 17 Aug regarding how to allocate places on the Psychology BSc course? What was taken into account when giving places to students?

The government announcement created an unprecedented situation for students and universities alike, as this decision came following places already being confirmed to students after they received their results on 13 August 2020. This announcement also meant that there would be movement of students and offer holders, who now met the offers of their original firm choices.
With this in mind the University was only able to accept the students with Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) that met or exceeded their offer. Where possible these students would be accommodated in September 2020, but where capacity was limited their place would be deferred to the following year.

This decision was made understanding that places on our courses are limited by lecture theatre capacity, tutor group ratios, as well as things such as accommodation.

This information was communicated at the time via the University’s Confirmation and Clearing webpages.

2. How many places were offered and accepted in clearing following A Level results day on 13 Aug 2020 on the Psychology BSc course?

14 places were accepted in Clearing on or after 13 August 2020 on the Psychology BSc course, including a small number for deferred places starting in 2021. Any applicants who were rejected following the original 13 August 2020 results, but were then subsequently accepted following the release of the CAGs, would have been accepted via Clearing and are included in this number.

3. Of the places mentioned in 2 above, how many of those applicants were accepted with A Level grades ABB or equivalent of grades ABB?

Fewer than five of the 14 applicants accepted in Clearing had A level grades ABB or equivalent. We are withholding the exact figure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act.

Section 40(2) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if it is the personal data of someone other than the person making the request, and disclosure would; contravene the data protection principles; contravene an objection to processing; or if the data is exempt from the right of subject access. To release information which either directly or indirectly allows students to be identified would, by extension, reveal personal information (i.e. in relation to their achieved grades). We consider that this would be unfair and contrary to expectations, and would therefore breach the data protection rights of the individuals.

4. What was the original cap or capacity for the 2020 intake for students to study an undergraduate Psychology BSc course at Leeds?

There was no single number used as a ‘cap’ for entry on to the Psychology BSc course.

5. How many students have been accepted to study Psychology BSc in Sept 2020 and how many students hold deferred places to start in 2021? Of those starting in 2021 is this for a Sept 2021 start date?

227 students were accepted to study Psychology BSc to start in September 2020, in addition to those applicants accepted through Clearing as stated above.
As of 15 March 2021, 16 students hold deferred places to start in September 2021. All places deferred to start in 2021 are for a September 2021 start date.

6. Of the students that have secured a place at Leeds on the Psychology BSc course, starting in Sept 2020 or who have been deferred to 2021, how many of those students had Leeds as their original (i) firm choice and (ii) insurance? Please confirm this for each intake year, 2020 and 2021.

For the Psychology BSc course starting in September 2020, 220 students had this course at Leeds as their Firm choice and seven had the Psychology BSc course at Leeds as their Insurance choice.

All students who deferred to September 2021 entry had the Psychology BSc course at Leeds as their Firm choice.

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