From: Freedom of Information
Sent: 03 March 2021 15:47
To: 
Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/081)

Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/081)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 10 February 2021, reference K/21/081.

Your request read:

“Part 1

a) Are international students able to access financial support from your hardship fund?

b) If so, how many international students have applied for financial help between March 2020 and January 2021?

c) Of these, how many were rejected?

d) What were the top three reasons for rejection?

e) Are international students able to request financial support multiple times in an academic year?

Part 2

a) How many cyber attacks did you detect against your institution in 2020?

b) How many cyber attacks in the same period impeded normal university operations for more than 24 hours?

c) Has the university ever paid a ransom to a cyber attacker?

d) Do you offer training or information to staff and students about preventing cyber attacks? If so, please give details about the form this takes (i.e. information on institution website, email updates, training sessions).”

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

For your convenience we have responded to each part of your request in turn below.

**Part one**

a) Are international students able to access financial support from your hardship fund?

Yes

b) If so, how many international students have applied for financial help between March 2020 and January 2021?

A total of 57 relevant applications were received within the timeframe you have set out. Of these, 28 applications were made to the International Leeds Hardship Fund (ILHF) and 29 were made to the Emergency Hardship Fund (EHF).

c) Of these, how many were rejected?
A total of 15 relevant applications were rejected. Of these, 12 were applications which had been made to the ILHF and three were applications which had been made to the EHF.

d) What were the top three reasons for rejection?

There are not enough possible reasons for rejection for us to provide a ‘top three’. However, the most common reasons for an application being rejected were as follows:

- Did not meet the hardship funding criteria
- Applicant had sufficient funds to pay for essential living costs.

e) Are international students able to request financial support multiple times in an academic year?

Yes, providing a change in circumstances can be evidenced.

Part two

a) How many cyber attacks did you detect against your institution in 2020?

We do not hold this information. The University is targeted by cyber attackers on multiple fronts on a continual basis and we do not keep a record of all attempted attacks.

b) How many cyber attacks in the same period impeded normal university operations for more than 24 hours?

None

c) Has the university ever paid a ransom to a cyber attacker?

No

d) Do you offer training or information to staff and students about preventing cyber attacks? If so, please give details about the form this takes (i.e. information on institution website, email updates, training sessions

Yes. Mandatory basis online information security training for all staff. More advanced training available for staff handling confidential data. Face-to-face training for specialist areas or where there are particular concerns. Specialist training mandated by data owners.

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