

Dear

Freedom of Information request reference K/20/035

Thank you for your clarified Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 24 January 2020, reference K/20/035.

Your clarified request sought the following information:

“The number of students who self-report their ethnicity as a black/white mixed/multiple ethnic group (e.g. White and Black Caribbean; White and Black African) who were awarded a PhD by the university in the academic year of 2014/2015; 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19. And what percentage of the total number of students awarded a PhD for each year, was this?”

The University of Leeds holds this information, which is provided below.

2014/15 – fewer than 5 students (<0.9%)
2015/16 – fewer than 5 students (<1.0%)
2016/17 – 6 students (1.0%)
2017/18 – fewer than 5 students (<0.8%)
2018/19 – fewer than 5 students (<1.0%)

Please note that where the total number in a category is less than or equal to five, we are withholding the total 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. We consider that the release of this information would be likely to lead to the identification of individuals, and could therefore be used to ascertain whether a particular person was awarded a PhD. This would be unfair and would therefore breach their data protection rights.

Part Time and Full Time PhDs have been included.

The number of Black/White mixed students is counted as the sum of the following ethnicity categories:

- Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White and Black African

NB – It does not include the category ‘Other Mixed background’

A number of students show with ethnicity as ‘Unknown’ (e.g. if the student has not provided this information). These students have been excluded from the percentage calculations.

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