

Dear [Applicant],

Freedom of Information request reference K/20/020

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 13 January 2020, reference K/20/20.

Your request read:

1. “How many students at your university have faced disciplinary action for dealing illegal drugs?
2. How many of these students were suspended from the university?
3. How many of these students were permanently expelled from the university?
4. How many of these cases were suspected to be linked to county lines drug dealing? (Government definition here)
5. In how many of these cases was the university informed by police of a suspected link to county lines drug dealing?
6. What is the total number of students that attended the university each year?

For each question could you please provide the data broken down by academic year for each of the past five academic years (2018/19, 2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15).

If this exceeds the cost limit please provide data for as many years as possible within the cost limit.”

The University of Leeds holds some of this information.

We do not hold any information in relation to suspected links to county lines drug dealing. This information may be held by relevant police forces, should you wish to redirect your enquiry accordingly.

Due to the very small number of cases, we consider that to provide the information broken down by academic year would risk identifying individuals. This information is therefore exempt 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 the data is exempt from the right of subject access. Where the number of cases in any year is very small, it is possible that other students or staff will know who the student(s) was. Therefore, disclosure of investigation outcomes would reveal to those individuals detail which they would not ordinarily be able to access, and which is personal to someone they are able to identify. As such, the information is exempt under section 40(2).

We are able to advise that between 2014/15 and 2018/19, a total of six students have faced disciplinary proceedings in relation to the dealing of illegal drugs. The outcomes across these proceedings were:

- Excluded from university
- Excluded from university accommodation

- Suspended from university (pending police investigation)
- Conditions placed on studies
- Student withdrew

Please note that the above list of outcomes are not mutually exclusive (e.g. a student may have been suspended, and also excluded from university accommodation).

The total number of students attending the University of Leeds in each year can be found on [our website](#), and as such we have not provided it here under section 21 of the FOI Act (information reasonably accessible to the applicant).

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.

Sincerely

Chloe Wilkins

Freedom of Information Officer
University of Leeds