



University of East Anglia

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[REDACTED]

13 February 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_17-008)

We have now considered your request of 16 January 2017 for information relating to instances of student academic misconduct in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Our response is on pages 3-4 of this letter, together with a copy of your request, and within the attached documents entitled FOI_17-008 Appendix A and FOI_17-008 Appendix B. Please note that we have divided our presentation of the data within both Appendices into 2 separate workbooks, one representing records of investigations of plagiarism and collusion, and the other investigations of cheating within examinations. We have also provided the data by academic year which runs from 01 August to 31 July annually.

On this occasion it is not possible to provide all the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm that the University does not hold some information within both documents noted above. Further information is given on pages 3 and 4 of this letter.

We hope this information will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us, or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_17-008)

Under the FOI Act can you tell me please:

1) How many students at your university have been investigated for academic cheating and/or academic misconduct in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

For clarity, academic cheating/academic misconduct includes but is not isolated to buying dissertations/essays from the internet and cheating in exams.

The requested information in question 1 above is presented within the table below. Please note that these are the number of students investigated, not the actual number of investigations..

Academic Year	Plagiarism & Collusion	Examination cheating	Total
2014/15	134	69	203
2015/16	163	64	227
2016/17 ¹	21	13	34
Total	318	146	464

2) Of those students, how many were found guilty of wrongdoing - please list their punishment (e.g expelled)

We have records of 447 students having been found guilty of wrongdoing over the specified time period.

The response to the above question is presented within the attached document entitled FOI_17-008 Appendix A, which includes the outcome of any investigation, which may be in the form of a penalty or sanction, or may be 'no further action'.

Please note that the spreadsheet shows all instances of investigated misconduct and this would include multiple instances of misconduct (and multiple punishments) regarding one individual. It will also include instances where misconduct was found and no penalty assessed, and some instances where the investigation concluded that no misconduct was committed.

To avoid inadvertently revealing information that could identify an individual, either in this set of figures or in combination with other student data made publicly available, we have deleted all information other than the academic year, the type of allegation and the outcome. Every record however, represents an individual instance/investigation of misconduct.

[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]

Some information relating to the nature of the offence and the outcome is not held due to errors in the inputting of data.

¹ The 2016 /17 academic year is only partially complete so the figures for this period will be substantially less than for other years reported.

3) Of the cases investigated, please make clear how many were for plagiarism

Of the cases investigated, 257 were for plagiarism. Please note that this figure represents cases investigated and not students investigated. There are several instances of an individual student being the subject of multiple investigations.

4) And finally of the cases investigated, please clearly define whether the student investigated was an overseas student or not - if possible breaking down each case into nationality (e.g. 105 French students investigated, 300 Americans investigated, 150 Brits)

The information requested above is presented within the attached document entitled FOI_17-008 Appendix B.

To avoid inadvertently revealing information that could identify an individual, either in this set of figures or in combination with other student data made publicly available, we have deleted all information other than academic year and nationality. Every record represents, however an individual instance/investigation of misconduct. Additionally, where numbers of the individuals investigated from a particular nation and the number of total students from a nation are very low, we have inserted a value of 'Other' to ensure that any particular individual cannot be identified.

[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]

In several instances, no record is held of the nationality of the student involved in a case of misconduct and in one instance, no record is held of the details of the alleged cheating.