

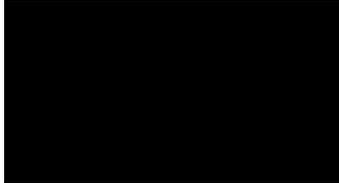


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03 April 2017

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_17-057)

We have now considered your request of 03 March 2017 for information relating to the participation and completion of disabled students within the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology course.

Our response is on pages 4-5 of this letter, together with a copy of your request and in the accompanying documents entitled 'FOI_17-057 Appendix A.zip'. Due to the number and size of the files we hold that have been received from the Leeds Clearing House, we have bound them together into a single .zip format.

To avoid inadvertently revealing information which could identify an individual either within this set of figures or in combination with other student data made publicly available, we have obscured values in the response to question 2(d) that are less than five (5) in number.

On this occasion, it is not possible to provide all the requested information. The Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemption to part of your request.

Exemption	Reason
s.40(2), Personal information	Disclosure of information would contravene one of the data protection principles

When a request is made under FOIA for information that includes personal data we are required to consider whether disclosing those data would breach the data protection principles contained within the DPA.

In considering a disclosure under FOIA, the University must also take into account that any information released under the Act will be placed in the public domain, through our own disclosure log or by other means.

We believe that disclosure of some the requested information, in particular information provided to UEA by the Leeds Clearing House in regards students accepted into the Clinical Psychology programme at UEA, would breach the first data protection principle under the DPA; namely that information must be fairly and lawfully processed, and that the processing also meets one of the conditions set out

in Schedule 2 of that Act, and in the case of sensitive personal data, a condition in Schedule 3. We are also of the opinion that release of information requested in questions 2(e) and 2(f) of your request would breach the first data protection principle.

We have followed the Information Commissioner's guidance¹ in assessing whether it is fair to disclose this information under FOIA. This involves considering the nature of the information, the expectations of and potential harm (of disclosure) to the data subjects, and how any legitimate public interest in this information is balanced against the rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

In particular the granularity of the information provided to UEA by the Leeds Clearing House in regards students accepted within the Clinical Psychology programme at UEA is so fine and the number of students within the programme and each listed category so small that it would be readily possible to identify certain individuals within the programme.

In regards the information requested in questions 2(e) and 2(f), to reveal the success rates and requirements for extensions by students with disabilities would be to reveal, in effect the existence of such students, their disabilities and personal data in relation to their progress at UEA.

We note that none of the requested information, which includes sensitive personal data, is publicly available. The data subjects would not have had a reasonable expectation that this information would be made public at any time. This information was gathered and provided to UEA for its own purposes and was never intended to be made public. We do not think there is a legitimate interest in disclosing this information to the public and have therefore concluded that disclosure of this information would not be fair.

The Information Commissioner's guidance (see footnote 1) notes that if a public authority has determined disclosure would not be fair then it must not release the information under FOIA. In such circumstances there is no need to consider the conditions in Schedule 2 or 3 of DPA. However we can confirm that we do not have consent of the data subjects for the release of this information, and do not consider disclosure of the data to be necessary under any of the other conditions of Schedule 2 or 3 of the DPA.

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 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.

¹ <https://ico.org.uk/media/1213/personal-information-section-40-and-regulation-13-foia-and-eir-guidance.pdf>

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_17-057)

Could you please supply me with the following data.

Please consider this a FOI(SA)request.

Each year the Leeds Clearing house organizes the applications for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology courses at your university.

The Clearing house states they collect data for success rate and diversity purposes. <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp/equalopps.html>

"We use the information you give to produce national data for all applicants and successful applicants, and for all applications and short-listed applications. We also produce data for each course centre for their applicants, their short-listed applicants and their successful applicants. We send each course center their set of data and the national set of data after selection is complete. All this data is anonymised so no applicant is identified."

However they are unwilling to supply this data to me as they say as a charity they do not have to.

Could You please therefore send me a copy of the data supplied to your university for the last 5 years.

Information supplied to UEA by the Leeds Clearing House is presented within the file entitled 'FOI_17-057 Appendix A.zip'.

Could you also answer the following questions

- 1. Do the University regulations make it acceptable for the Clearing house which controls the application process for this course (and charges a fee for the service to the potential student) to exclude its self from the FOI regulations which the university has to abide by?*

The application of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is governed by provisions within the Act² itself; specifically sections 1, 3 and Schedule 1. University regulations have no bearing whatsoever on inclusion or exclusion of specific organisations from application of, and obligations under the Act.

2. Doctorate in Clinical Psychology course

- a. How many students started the Doctorate course for each of the last 5 year?*
- b. How many students with*
 - 1. Dyslexia*
 - 2. Unseen disability*
 - 3. Blind/partially sighted*
 - 4. Deaf/hearing impairment*
 - 5. Mental health difficulties*
 - 6. Wheelchair user/mobility difficulties*
 - 7. Two or more disabilities*

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>

8. Other disability

9 with any disability

Took the course each of the years?

c. How many students successfully completed the course?

d. How many student need an extension of the course to complete?

e. How many of the student with each disability complete successfully?

f. How many of the student with each disability needed extension to complete successfully?

Our response to questions 2(a) to (f) is presented within the table below

Question	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2(a)	17	15	17	23	24
2(b)(1)	[Information exempted pursuant to s.40(2), Freedom of Information Act]				
2(b)(2)					
2(b)(3)					
2(b)(4)					
2(b)(5)					
2(b)(6)					
2(b)(7)					
2(b)(8)					
2(b)(9)					
2(c) ³	16	13	N/A	N/A	N/A
2(d) ⁴	0	[s.40(2)]	[s.40(2)]	0	0
2(e)	[s.40(2)]	[s.40(2)]	N/A	N/A	N/A
2(f)	[Information exempted pursuant to s.40(2), FOIA]				

³ This figure represents the number of students who commenced their studies in 2012 that successfully completed their course.

⁴ Please note that we are including extensions for students who have yet to complete their course of studies.