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Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_18-188)

We have now considered your request of 08 August 2018 for information relating to students deferring their studies due to medical and personal grounds.

Our response is on pages 2-3 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

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 Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_18-188)

I would like to know how many students from your university have deferred their studies/taken a leave of absence on health AND/OR personal grounds:

- AND if you hold information for BOTH categories

- OR if you only hold information for ONE of these categories

- if collecting data for BOTH categories would exceed time and cost limits, please only provide information for health grounds.

I would like this data from the past 5 years, showing whether there has been an increase or decrease during this time.

I class a leave of absence from university on health/personal grounds as any time more than three months in duration, and especially those who defer to the next academic year (eg leaving in first semester until the first semester of the following academic year). I would also like the figures to include those who don't return.

If you could distinguish between (1) those who return within the same academic year beyond three months, (2) those who return the next academic year and (3) those who don't return, that would be helpful.

Our response is within the table below.

Please note that we have added a category entitled 'Not returned as yet / Returned beyond next academic year' to represent students that have interrupted their studies but do not fit within any of the categories you have provided. These would be students who are still in a state of absence from their studies but have not as yet returned, or have not returned within a year.

Students at UEA can only request a leave of absence of one year in duration but on occasion, for a variety of reasons, this period can be extended with the approval of the University. All students therefore are granted a leave of absence with the intention of returning within the same or next academic year, but this can be extended.

For obvious reasons, the figures for 2016/17 and 2017/18 contain many such students.

Grounds	Time of return	Academic Year					Total
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Medical Grounds	Returned within same academic year	27	24	24	25	24	124
	Returned next academic year	92	231	164	175	6	668
	Not returned as yet / Returned beyond next academic year	0	1	1	33	197	232
	Did not return (withdrew)	37	73	66	55	11	242

Personal Grounds	Returned within same academic year	15	14	17	16	6	68
	Returned next academic year	80	96	116	96	6	394
	Not returned as yet / Returned beyond next academic year	0	0	2	22	108	132
	Did not return (withdrew)	28	31	43	38	8	148