



University of East Anglia

Information Compliance (ITCS)

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04 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000– Information request (ref: FOI\_19-159)**

We have now considered your request of 06 June 2019 for the following information:

*‘ Please could I make an FOI request to find out the number of students who have 'dropped out' of your university for each academic year since 2015/16 and the reason given please, for example, due to ill health, or financial difficulties and which course that they were each studying prior to departure. ’*

As requested, our response is in the accompanying Excel file, FOI\_19-159 Appendix A.

We have been unable to provide a breakdown of the data exactly as you requested. We believe that to do so would mean that individuals could potentially be identified from the data, and that where this is possible - for example because only one student left a particular course in a given year - we would then reveal the reason for that person having left the University.

This information would constitute the personal data for those individuals. We do not believe we have a lawful basis for publicly disclosing such data, and therefore would consider this to be exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We have tried to supply as much data as possible based on the requirements of your request, whilst also ensuring we do not inadvertently disclose personal data. We have therefore separated the course data and total numbers from the reason for 'dropping out'.

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 40 working days of the date of this letter. In line with section 5.3 of the UK Government's Freedom of Information Act Code of Practice, we are not obliged to accept internal reviews after this date.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Cutting  
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University of East Anglia