



University of East Anglia

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[Redacted]

08 January 2016

Dear [Redacted]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_15-268)

We have now considered your request of 15 December 2015 for information relating to UEA Pharmacy students. Our response is on page 3 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

Following our telephone conversation of 16 December, we have limited our response to current student data only.

As discussed, it is not possible to provide all the data you have requested in questions 2, 3, 6 and 7. The Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemption to these parts of your request.

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

We believe that information on students' names, postal town and email addresses collectively represents their 'personal data', as defined by section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

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.

We believe that disclosure of the combined requested information 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.

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.

The withheld information is not made publicly available, and we believe the students involved would not have had a reasonable expectation that this information would 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.

While we cannot provide all the requested personal data, we have considered whether it would be possible to provide postal town data only, as theoretically it could be more difficult to identify individuals from this information by itself. However, our student records system does not contain a set field for recording postal town data. This information may be recorded in one or more of a number of fields, or not at all.

Because we would need to review each student record manually, we believe that extracting the postal town information that we do hold would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by section 12 of the Act and the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004/3244.

The 'appropriate limit' of £450, which equates to 18 hours' work, relates to a request in its entirety. If the University cannot locate, retrieve and extract some or all of the requested information within the 18 hours we are not obliged to retrieve any of the requested information. In this case, even allowing just 3 minutes to locate and obtain relevant information from each student record would exceed 23 hours of work for this part of your request alone.

For reporting purposes, UEA instead uses Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics NUTS 3 codes¹. As an alternative to the postal town data we would be able to provide these codes, where held. If you would like this information for both courses on its own – i.e. with no further identifying data – please let us know.

We hope this information meets your requirements, however you have the right of appeal against this response. 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

Ellen Paterson
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NUTS_of_the_United_Kingdom

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_15-268)

1. The number of pharmacy students in you MPharm broken down in respective years 1st/2nd/3rd/4th

Year of study	1	2	3	4
No. of students	94	102	127	98

2. Name, surname and postal town of the students on the MPharm course

[Information exempted pursuant to s.40(2), s.12, Freedom of Information Act]

3. Email addresses of these students on the MPharm course.

[Information exempted pursuant to s.40(2), Freedom of Information Act]

4. Does the university provide pharmacist independent/supplementary prescribing courses and clinical diploma courses for pharmacists?

The School of Pharmacy does not currently provide pharmacist independent / supplementary prescribing courses but the School of Pharmacy does provide a clinical diploma course for pharmacists: Pharmacy Practice (PGDip).

5. If so, is it possible to have a break down of the numbers of students in each of these courses into respective years.

The Pharmacy Practice (PGDip) programme duration is two years part-time and runs by calendar year, rather than the standard academic year. The current cohorts are:

Year of study	1	2
Number of students	32	18

6. Name, surname and postal town of the students undergoing the courses.

[Information exempted pursuant to s.40(2), s.12, Freedom of Information Act]

7. Email addresses of the students undertaking the courses.

[Information exempted pursuant to s.40(2), Freedom of Information Act]