

██████████  
  
20 April 2015

Dear ██████████

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_15-080)**

We have now considered your request of 16 April 2015 for the following information:

*‘The percentage of home undergraduate students newly enrolled on bachelors courses who went to: a) A fee-paying (independent) secondary school; b) A non-fee-paying (state) secondary school, in: i) 2012/3; ii) 2013/4; iii) 2014/5’*

We regret that on this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information.

In line with section 17 of the Act, this letter acts as a refusal notice. The Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemptions to your request.

Exemption	Reason
s.21(1), Information reasonably accessible to applicant by other means	2012/3 and 2013/4 data can be obtained from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
s.22(1), Information intended for future publication	2014/5 figures are in preparation for later publication

With regard to the 2012/3 and 2013/4 data, we have established this information is reasonably accessible by other means and so has been exempted under section 21(1) of the Act. The section 21 exemption confirms there is no right of access under the Act to information that is held by a public authority, if that information is reasonably available to the applicant by another route (whether through commercial publication or publicly-funded provision). In this case, the requested 2012/3 and 2013/4 data can be constructed from data tables published by HESA on their website: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/pis/urg>.

The section 22(1) exemption applies when public authorities hold requested information with the expectation that it will be made publicly available at a later stage – whether by the authority or another body. HESA have confirmed their intention to publish the requested 2014/5 data in March 2016, following submission by individual universities (including UEA) by October 2015.

While there will be a delay before the 14/15 figures are published, we believe that it is reasonable to withhold these data prior to publication. The information is not currently held in a readily reportable form. Collation of the data on completion of the academic

year to which it relates – in accordance with our current practice – will ensure accuracy of our HESA submission. Subsequent publication by HESA will enable reliable comparison of the position of UEA with other HEIs, and is clearly in line with HESA’s usual practices. We believe these advantages outweigh any inconvenience caused by the delay in publishing.

When applying the s.22 exemption we must consider the public interest in withholding or disclosing this information. We acknowledge there is a general benefit to the public in providing factual information on the University’s admissions, particularly where there are concerns that certain groups may be under or over-represented in the UK HE sector as a whole. However, we feel this public interest is adequately met by the existing and ongoing publications provided by HESA. We are unaware of any wider public benefit in early disclosure of the University’s 2014/5 data. On this occasion, we believe the public interest lies in the University supporting HESA’s planned publication schedule.

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

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