

Request Ref: 2782

FOI Request dated **21/12/2022** as follows –

I would like all information regarding the number of students and what they are studying. In particular, I would like answers to the following:

- *How many people are currently studying at your university?*
- *How many of these are over 50? Could you please also break them down by age group if possible (50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90+)*
- *What specific courses are students over 50 studying at your university? Please could you specify for each course, how many students there are over the age of 50*

Response

Please note we have also included those who are 50, which is the usual HESA grouping.

- **How many people are currently studying at your university?**
 - 15,170
- **How many of these are over 50? Could you please also break them down by age group if possible (50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90+)**

No students were aged 80 or over.

Aged 50 or over on 1st Dec 2022	485
50's	410
60's	65
70's	10

- **What specific courses are students over 50 studying at your university? Please could you specify for each course, how many students there are over the age of 50** - We are unable to provide specific courses as the student numbers are small at course level and individuals could be identifiable, therefore we apply a partial Section 40 (2)* to this part of your request. Therefore, we have provided a split of course type by age group.

FT/PT	Level of Study	50's	60's	70's	Total
Full-Time	Undergraduate	80	10		85
	Postgraduate Taught	20			20
	Postgraduate Research	10	5		20
Part-Time	Undergraduate	40	5		45
	Postgraduate Taught	245	40	10	295
	Postgraduate Research	15	5	0	20
Total		410	65	10	485

**Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.*

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is deemed to be released to the public at large. Therefore, no information if deemed would identify a living individual would be released. Therefore section 40(2) of the Act is engaged. As section 40(2) is an absolute exemption there is no requirement for me to conduct a public interest test. However I am satisfied that disclosure would breach the 1st principle of the Data Protection Act – fair and lawful processing.

If information requested under the Freedom of Information legislation is the personal data of the data subject, an absolute exemption is automatically applicable to the request, furthermore there is no requirement for a public authority to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure where the information falls within the scope of the exemption.

If we were to disclose personal data under the Freedom of Information Act, theoretically anyone in the world could request and receive personal information of anyone they may please. With this in mind, Freedom of Information is not the lawful or appropriate method of access to the data that you require.