

Reference: FOI 25009

Details of the request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request the following information:

1. The amount spent by the university on widening access and participation (including staff salary of those whose role is related to widening access and participation) in the academic years of 2015-16, 2019-20, and 2023-24 respectively.
2. How many staff members (FTE) were employed specifically in roles related to widening access and participation in the academic years of 2015-16, 2019-20, and 2023-24 respectively.
3. The number and percentage of full-time first degree entrants from a Low Participation Neighbourhood (Q1 POLAR4) and the number and percentage of full-time first degree entrants from IMD Q1 (if measured by the institution) for the academic years of 2015-16, 2019-20, and 2023-24 respectively. The percentages should be the percentage that group represents out of all full-time first degree entrants for that academic year.

Summary

LSBU is able to supply all of the information request.	
The information (or links to the information if it is already published) set out below.	
LSBU is able to supply part of the information requested.	
The information (or links to the information if it is already published) set out below, together with the reason for the partial response.	x
LSBU is unable to supply any of the information requests. Reasons set out below.	

Details of our response:

Exemption:

Exemption	Applied?	Rationale
Section 21 – information already reasonably accessible		
Section 22 – information intended for future publication	x	The 2023/24 data for Q1 and Q3 are intended for future publication, and we consider it reasonable for the data to be disclosed when this becomes available to the public. Please note that the data will be accessible via the relevant websites noted in our response below.
Section 22A – research information		
Sections 30 and 31 – investigations and prejudice to law enforcement		
Section 40(2) – personal information	x	<p>The term ‘fewer than 6’ is a standard practice used in all FOI requests by the University when our counts relating to individuals are so low that they number fewer than 6 and there is likelihood that this could lead to a risk of individuals being identifiable. This should not be interpreted as the actual number being 6. We do this in order to prevent the personal data of the individuals that the response relates to from being indirectly disclosed.</p> <p>Personal data is defined in the DPA as “any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person.” We consider that if we were to release the requested information, given the low count, there is a risk of the individuals being identifiable. In which case, this would contravene principle (a) relating to processing of personal data in Article 5 of the GDPR, specifically the fairness, transparency and purpose limitation principles.</p>
Section 43 – trade secrets and prejudice to commercial interests		

Response:

- 1) Please note that this information is publicly accessible on our website: <https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/about-us/facts-and-figures> > Report and Accounts > Page 19; please see section 22 exemption above for 2023/24 data; for 2015/16 – data not held
- 2) 2015/16 – data not held

2019/20 – please see the section 40(2) exemption applied above.

2023/24 – please see the section 40(2) exemption applied above.

- 3) Please note that this information is publicly accessible on the OFS website: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/access-and-participation-data-dashboard/data-dashboard/>; please see section 22 exemption above for 2023/24 data; for 2015/16 – data not held.

If you wish to request a review, please set out in writing your reasons and send it within 2 months of the date of this letter to the Group Chief People and Legal Officer, London South Bank University, 103 Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA. We will aim to carry out the review within 20 working days, or in exceptional circumstances within 40 working days.

If you are not satisfied with the review decision, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner whose contact details can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>.