

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 16 October 2024

**Public Authority:** The Council of the University of Bedfordshire  
**Address:** University Square  
Luton  
LU1 3JU

#### **Request:**

The complainant requested the following information from the University of Bedfordshire on 20 August 2024:

"I am making a request under the FOI Act.

The information I seek pertains to how your university has been responding to any and all protest activity - including but not limited to verbal or written statements, flyering, picketing, demonstrations and marches, waving of banners, and encampments - by staff and students at your university in opposition to Israel's military actions in Palestine.

In particular I'm seeking information in relation to the following types of action taken by your university: disciplinary action; referrals to Prevent and police; and withdrawals of immigration sponsorship.

Please provide the following information:

1. The number of students involved in pro-Palestine protest activity whose immigration sponsorship has since 1 October 2023 been reviewed/investigated by the university. Please break this down by:
  - a. The date of the review/investigation
  - b. The reason for the review/investigation (eg disciplinary reasons). Please specify any allegations against the student in as much detail as possible and - if applicable - how they relate to university policies

- c. The outcome of the review (eg withdrawn, upheld, ongoing)
  - d. The outcome of any subsequent appeals
  - e. What action the Home Office subsequently has taken regarding their visa (ie visa revoked/cancelled/curtailed)
2. The number of students involved in pro-Palestine protest activity whose student visas have since 1 October 2023 been cancelled/revoked/curtailed by the Home Office, regardless of whether or not the university has withdrawn immigration sponsorship. If retrievable within the cost limit, please break this down by:
    - a. The date the of the visa cancellation/revocation/curtailment (or, if not known, when your university was informed of it)
    - b. The reason for the cancellation/revocation/curtailment
  3. The number of students involved in pro-Palestine protest activity whose personal data has since 1 October 2023 been:
    - a. Requested by the Home Office in connection with their protest activity (please specify the reason in each case)
    - b. Shared with the Home Office in connection with their protest activity (please specify the reason in each case)
  4. The number of students and staff facing or who have faced disciplinary action in connection with pro-Palestine protest activity since 10 May 2024. Please break these figures down by:
    - a. The date disciplinary action was taken
    - b. Reason for disciplinary action. Please specify any allegations against the student in as much detail as possible and - if applicable - how they relate to university policies
    - c. The outcome of the disciplinary action
    - d. Whether they are staff or a student
  5. The number of students involved in pro-Palestine protest activity whose personal data has since 10 May 2024 been:
    - a. Requested by the police in connection with their protest activity (please specify the reason in each case)
    - b. Shared with the police in connection with their protest activity (please specify the reason in each case)

6. The number of Prevent referrals made in relation to students involved in pro-Palestine protest activity on your campus since 10 May 2024. Please break this down by:
- a. The date the Prevent referral was made
  - b. Reason for the Prevent referral.”

**Commissioner’s Decision:**

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

**Steps:**

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

**Right of Appeal:**

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Reference: IC-334111-H6N2

**Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF**