

**Mr John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer

22 February 2019

Ref: FOI/January 2019/ Lok Ping

By email to [L.Lai2@lse.ac.uk](mailto:L.Lai2@lse.ac.uk)

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Dear Ms Ping

Your request for information received on 31 January 2019 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

My name is Lok Ping and I am studying for a master's in International Migration and Public Policy at the European Institute. I am writing to request information about the North Korean (i.e. DPRK) population (including students, researchers, teachers, etc) at Middlesex University London over the past 30 years. I believe the data would be of tremendous help to my research project on the educational attainment of the North Korean second-generation migrants in London. I would appreciate if you could give me the numbers, contact information, the content of their job or the subjects they studied, number of years they stayed at Middlesex University London and if they were students, what they did after graduation. Information can be sent to this email address.

Specifically, I would like to have the following information:

- Number of students, researchers, professors and staff members of North Korean ethnicity (broken down by category) in each year from 1989-2019
- If possibly, also the contact information of these people
- Number of North Korean students who finished their studies and returned to North Korea or South Korea or worked in North Korea-related organisations

### **University Response**

We have only had a single North Korean national registered as a student and no researchers, professors and staff members during the time period you have requested.

The contact details and what the student did once they finished their studies are withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act which covers the personal data of third parties where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act. We owe a duty of confidence to all parties involved in investigations of this nature; therefore the

University considers the information to be exempt from disclosure. So in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, (the Act), this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have such a complaint, you may contact Mr David Maplas, Director of Student Affairs, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 5830, [d.malpas@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:d.malpas@mdx.ac.uk) within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

**John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer