

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: 04 February 2018 18:54
To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science; [redacted]
Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] ; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT lines to clear: UCAS stats

[redacted]

Ms Somerville is content to clear.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]
Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 18:23
To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science; [redacted]
Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] ; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: URGENT lines to clear: UCAS stats
Importance: High

Ms Somerville,

The National have asked for our response to the Conservative release [redacted] sent you earlier – also below, for ease. Grateful for your clearance of the following, agreed with policy and Spads.

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

“In 2017, we saw a 13% increase in the number of people from the most deprived communities getting places to study at university. Figures also show that overall, more people from deprived backgrounds of all ages are applying to university which is very welcome. And while it is good to see Scotland’s universities outperforming those across the UK, we know there is more to do and will continue to work hard to drive forward our ambition to widen access to university for people from our most deprived communities and ensure progress continues.

“In addition we are pleased that these statistics also show an increase in both the number of Scottish residents and the number of non-EU international students applying to university in Scotland.”

[redacted]

[redacted] | Duty Communications Officer | Scottish Government | [redacted]

Gap widens between rich and poor student applications to university

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Sunday, February 4, 2018

FAO: all newsdesks

Embargo: 00.01 Monday, February 5, 2018

Figures published by UCAS today show that Scottish applications to university are flatlining.

The report, analysing full-time undergraduate numbers, also shows that the gap in applications to university between students from rich and poor backgrounds is increasing, that the number of school leavers applying to sciences and engineering has dropped and that the numbers of non-EU (international) students applying to Scottish universities have increased more markedly than other groups.

The statistics also show that the percentage of 18 year old Scottish applicants living in disadvantaged areas in Scotland, decreased this year, from 17 per cent to 16.7 per cent of total applicants.

In stark contrast the application rate for the most advantaged areas in Scotland increased by 1.9 per cent - a widening gap between the most and least deprived areas.

In addition, the number of school leavers going into sciences and engineering has dropped by 780.

Lastly, EU applications have also increased by 40 while non-EU applications have increased by 2,500.

Commenting on the findings, Liz Smith Scottish Conservative Shadow Education Secretary said:

"Scotland's future prosperity and the success of its young people depends on a thriving university sector therefore the trends within these latest statistics are important.

"Given the financial constraints under which universities are operating and the resulting pressure to increase the number of fee-paying students it is perhaps not surprising to see the growth in the number of international applicants.

"At the same time, it appears that the number of Scots domiciled students applying to university has started to flatline and it is particularly worrying to see a drop in the number of students applying for STEM courses and a drop in the number of Scottish students applying to university from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"In both cases, the SNP tells us it is addressing these issues as a matter of priority but these statistics tell a different story. That is because the SNP has not had the necessary focus on these issues within its schools policy. That must change."

Ends

Notes to editors:

An embargoed copy of the report, as well as embargoed versions of the January 15 deadline statistical publications, can be found [here](#).

[redacted]
Press Officer
Scottish Conservatives

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

This email was sent to [redacted]

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Scottish Conservatives - 67 Northumberland Street - Edinburgh, Lothian EH3 6JG - United Kingdom

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: 04 February 2018 17:33
To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science; [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Cc: [redacted]; Communications DFM & Education
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Thanks [redacted] – good to know.

[redacted]
Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]
Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 17:32
To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science; [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Cc: [redacted]; Communications DFM & Education
Subject: Re: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Thanks for sorting [redacted].

[redacted] - appreciate the Minister doesn't require comms support but [redacted].

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: Sunday, 4 February 2018 17:22
To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications DFM & Education
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Brilliant – thanks again.

[redacted]
Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]
Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 17:22
To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; Communications DFM & Education
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

No problem, I can do that and provide a read out.

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: 04 February 2018 17:15
To: [redacted]
Cc: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science; [redacted]; [redacted];
Communications DFM & Education
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

[redacted]

Just to confirm that Ms Somerville does not require comms support. She would, however, appreciate if someone could listen to Iain Gray's interview and email with feedback before her interview at 8am. Just conscious the transcript may take too long to be read in time.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]
Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 16:57
To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Do you want me to send that on to her or will you?

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: 04 February 2018 16:55
To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Ok, thanks.

[redacted]
Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]
Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 16:53
To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

If she could be at the Tun for 8, to be on air around 8.05 that would be great for them.

They will likely have Iain Gray on just after 7, I'll order a transcript which she should get beforehand.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: 04 February 2018 16:34
To: [redacted]
Cc: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Subject: Re: GMS bid: UCAS figures

[redacted]

I believe Ms Somerville has accepted. What time is the interview which will be at the Tun?

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 4 February 2018 15:48
To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Employability and Training; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Minister,

GMS have bid for a live interview just after 8am tomorrow morning, covering the UCAS stats and our news release. It would be a one to one interview, they would prefer ISDN or studio quality but could also use Skype or FaceTime audio. They may line up someone from one of the opposition parties to appear earlier on the programme but have not confirmed that yet. Advice from duty SpAd is to accept, grateful if you could let me know whether you are available.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Duty Communications Officer | Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 20:18
To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures - Request for Further Background Information

[redacted]

Please see the answers to the minister's query below and let me know if you require any further information

- What % of applicants apply after the January 15th and how many more times will UCAS update us on application statistics for academic year 18-19?
- There are two further sets of applicant statistics from UCAS still to be published this year. The first is after the 24 March deadline which includes applicant for some art and design courses. The final one will be covering 30 June deadline which include all application in the 2018 cycle. Last year, for the 2017 cycle, just over 10 per cent of applicants were included in the June deadline statistics compared to the January 15 deadline statistics. This has varied from 7 per cent in 2015 cycle and 8 per cent in 2016 cycle. For 18 year olds the difference was less than 1 per cent for the 2017 cycle , therefore the additional applicant will be older.
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- I want numbers which show that alternatives are increasingly appealing eg youth unemployment rates, apprenticeship numbers and college numbers.
- I've attached the youth labour market dashboard which included the latest statistics on youth unemployment, school leaver destinations, Modern Apprenticeships and NEET figures. I have also include below some college numbers by age taken from the latest SFC publication.
-
- **College Students By Age**
- The age profile of students at college varies by mode and level of attendance. Table D shows the number of full-time, SFC-funded students by age group. Table below shows that those aged 18 and 19 make up the largest proportion of full-time SFC funded students and the number of enrolments by this group increased by 217 between 2015-16 and 2016-17. There has also been an overall increase of 34.6% in enrolments by this group since 2006-07.
- Enrolments by full-time students aged 16 to 17 decreased between 2015-16 and 2016-17, and overall since 2006-07. Enrolments by full-time students aged

I've picked this up and will look to see what I can get back to you this evening.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Head of Advanced Learning and Skills Analysis
Scottish Government,
6th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Tel: [redacted]

Mobile: [redacted]

email: [redacted]@gov.scot

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Sent: 04 February 2018 18:00

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures - Request for Further Background Information

Importance: High

Hi,

Ms Somerville would like clarification on the following queries prior to the interview due at 8am tomorrow:

- What % of applicants apply after the January 15th and how many more times will UCAS update us on application statistics for academic year 18-19?
- [redacted]
- I want numbers which show that alternatives are increasingly appealing eg youth unemployment rates, apprenticeship numbers and college numbers.

Grateful if someone could confirm that this is in hand ?

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]

Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: 04 February 2018 17:00

To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Employability and Training; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

For the benefit of the copy list, Ms Somerville has accepted this GMS bid for 8.05am tomorrow morning at The Tun.

[redacted]

Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]

Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 February 2018 18:16

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];

Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];

Subject: RE: URGENT Media enquiry: UCAS stats

Provide the additional lines but put them from the Minister

Sent with BlackBerry Work

(www.blackberry.com)

From: [redacted]

Date: Sunday, 04 Feb 2018, 6:01 pm

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];

Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];

Subject: RE: URGENT Media enquiry: UCAS stats

[redacted] has popped out, [redacted] can you confirm you're happy with this approach?

From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 February 2018 17:55

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Subject: Re: URGENT Media enquiry: UCAS stats

[redacted]/ [redacted],

Sorry our emails keep crossing.

[redacted]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 4 February 2018 17:52
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Subject: RE: URGENT Media enquiry: UCAS stats

so changed that line [redacted] can you send up please so we meet deadlines
ta

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 17:45
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Subject: RE: URGENT Media enquiry: UCAS stats

[redacted]

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From:[redacted]
Date: Sunday, 04 Feb 2018, 5:29 pm
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted];**Subject:** RE: URGENT Media enquiry: UCAS stats

I've changed...

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 13:10
To: DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R

(Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: News Desk; Communications DFM & Education; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: URGENT Media enquiry: UCAS stats

Importance: High

All,

The National have asked for a response to the below news release from the Tories. Similarly, the Times have asked to confirm the accuracy of this line from the UCAS release, and whether we have anything to add to the quote from our news release. I think the existing quote covers this, although I'd welcome views, and I see that the comparison figures were flagged when our news release went up to clear, so assume we have no issues with them?

Highest levels on record for English and Northern Irish applicants from disadvantaged areas

By 15 January 2018, application rates for 18 year olds living in disadvantaged areas (measured through the POLAR3 classification) in England increased to the highest levels recorded (22.6 per cent). The rate also increased in Northern Ireland (24.5 per cent), and remained constant in Wales (19.7 per cent). The ratio of application rates between the most and least advantaged decreased, with advantaged UK 18 year olds being 2.3 times more likely to apply than disadvantaged UK 18 year olds, compared to figures at the same point in 2017.

Application rates of 18 year olds living in disadvantaged areas in Scotland, defined using the latest 2016 version of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, decreased in 2018, to 16.7 per cent. This was the first decrease since 2008. The application rate for applicants living in the most advantaged areas in Scotland increased by 1.9 per cent, widening the gap between the most and least advantaged applicants.

I'd be grateful for urgent advice on what we could add to the below quote to cover the Tories' points about STEM subjects and EU students?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 February 2018 16:41

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Yes

Sent with BlackBerry Work

(www.blackberry.com)

From: [redacted]

Date: Sunday, 04 Feb 2018, 4:39 pm

To: [redacted]

Subject: FW: GMS bid: UCAS figures

[redacted] – do you have access to these FMQ briefs?

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 February 2018 16:29
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: GMS bid: UCAS figures

Happy to do. Can I get FMQ Brief on both HE funding and Widening Access for preparation please.

Sent from my iPhone

On 4 Feb 2018, at 15:48, [redacted] wrote:

Minister,

GMS have bid for a live interview just after 8am tomorrow morning, covering the UCAS stats and our news release. It would be a one to one interview, they would prefer ISDN or studio quality but could also use Skype or FaceTime audio. They may line up someone from one of the opposition parties to appear earlier on the programme but have not confirmed that yet. Advice from duty SpAd is to accept, grateful if you could let me know whether you are available.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Duty Communications Officer | Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Sent: Sunday, 4 February 2018 08:38
To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Employability and Training; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS End of Cycle Report Providers Data - Embargoed - Thursday 25th January

[redacted]

Ms Somerville is content.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Private Secretary to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Tel: [redacted]
Blackberry – [redacted]

Ministerial preferences for Ms Somerville are shown here.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 02 February 2018 17:43

To: [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Employability and Training; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport; [redacted]

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS End of Cycle Report Providers Data - Embargoed - Thursday 25th January

Ms Somerville,

Please see below a draft news release we would intend to issue over the weekend under embargo for 00.01 on Monday - to coincide with the publication of the UCAS stats.

Also to flag up that the UCAS news release states that:

Application rates of 18 year olds living in disadvantaged areas in Scotland, defined using the latest 2016 version of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, decreased in 2018, to 16.7 per cent. This was the first decrease since 2008. The application rate for applicants living in the most advantaged areas in Scotland increased by 1.9 per cent, widening the gap between the most and least advantaged applicants.

We haven't yet been asked for comment, but have sought to address this in the quote and we can also point to the fact that the number of (all age) applicants from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland increased by 1%.

The release has been cleared with policy leads, statistical colleagues and SpAds. I'd be grateful if you could confirm you are content for this to issue.

Also copying to the Cabinet Secretary for Health to be aware of the background point on applications to nursing that has been included.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Embargoed 00.01 Monday 5 February.

Applicant boost for Scottish universities
Scotland bucks UK trend as more students apply for a university place.

Scotland's universities are bucking the trend across the UK, with an increase in those applying to study north of the border for the next academic year.

The number of applicants to a Scottish university at the 15 January deadline increased by 1% compared to last year, in contrast with a 1% fall in applicants applying to any UK institution.

The latest UCAS figures provide the first indication of demand for higher education in 2018-19.

They include a 1% rise in the number of Scottish residents applying to a Scottish university and a 13% rise in the number of non-EU international students.

Further and Higher Education Minister Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

“These figures are a significant indicator of the strength of Scotland's global reputation as a welcoming and world-class study destination.

“As I set out to Parliament last week, we remain a country where people want to come and work in our universities and also to study here. A diverse student population is an integral and valued part of our universities and indeed our colleges too.

“And while it is good to see Scotland’s universities outperforming those across the UK, it is also vitally important that we continue to drive forward our ambition to widen access to university for people from our most deprived communities.

“In 2017, we saw a 13% increase in the number of people from the most deprived communities getting places to study at university. Today’s application rate shows that there is more work to do if we are to see a similar increase in 2018.

“Universities must do all they can to promote the opportunities available for learners from our most deprived backgrounds and to make them aware where there is still a chance to apply before the 30th June deadline.

“It is equally important that universities push ahead with the implementation of minimum entry thresholds so that the potential of those who do apply is recognised fairly within the application process.”

Background

The UCAS publication *UK applications rates by the January deadline* is published on 5 February 2018. [LINK]

In Scotland, around one third of admissions are not processed through UCAS so this provides only part of the picture of entry to higher education.

The figures also show the number of Scottish domiciled applicants applying to nursing courses in the UK increased by 4%. This compares to a 13% decrease seen by English domiciled applicants applying to nursing courses in the UK.

[redacted] | Senior Media Manager | Communications | Scottish Government | St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 02 February 2018 17:32

To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th
February

Happy

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 16:54
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th
February

Grateful for SpAds view please.

[redacted] | Senior Media Manager | Communications | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |
[redacted] | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 15:39
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th
February

[redacted]/ [redacted],

To see below news release we would intend to issue under embargo for Monday to coincide with the UCAS stats.

To flag up so you're aware that the UCAS news release states this:

Application rates of 18 year olds living in disadvantaged areas in Scotland, defined using the latest 2016 version of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, decreased in 2018, to 16.7 per cent. This was the first decrease since 2008. The application rate for applicants living in the most advantaged

The Scottish Government
[redacted] | X: [redacted] | BB: [redacted] | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 13:59
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

Thanks [redacted] and [redacted], fine with that and we can have the supporting lines on hand if we get specific queries
[redacted]

[redacted] | Branch Head | Chief Nursing Officer's Directorate |
 [redacted] |  [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 13:47
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

Thanks – had a quick chat with [redacted] from the health comms team and have added in a line at the end of the nursing stats.

He thinks this will probably be all that is needed and Comms Health/Cab Sec can tweet a link to the figures highlighting for their specific interests.

[redacted] | Senior Media Manager | Communications | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1
3DG | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 13:32
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

[redacted]

Thanks and content for widening access.

[redacted]

[redacted]

- On 31st January, we confirmed that the number of student nurses and midwives entering Scottish Government funded degree programmes will increase by 10.8% in 2018/19 – the sixth increase in a row.
 - The increase will mean a recommended intake of 3,724, up from 3,360 in 2017/18. This supports a commitment to create an estimated 2,600 new training places during this Parliament, which is expected to bring those in training to a record high of more than 12,000.
 - [redacted]

I have copied in [redacted] in Health Comms who has dealt with the handling N & M intakes this week. If you need anything further, feel free to call.
[redacted]

[redacted] | Branch Head | Chief Nursing Officer's Directorate |
 [redacted] |  [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 11:44
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

[redacted]

Suggested lines below on widening access. Please let me know if you need anything more on this.

[redacted]

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]
 Strategic Lead - Access to Higher Education | Higher Education & Science Division | Directorate for Advanced Learning & Science | Scottish Government

: [redacted] or [redacted] | : [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 10:48
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

The suggested top line (within [redacted]'s first para) on International non-EU applications is fine as is. If any more on that is required:

- [redacted]
- This welcome was reinforced just last Thursday by Minister's statement in Parliament confirming a doubling in value of the prestigious Saltire Scholarships from 2018/19.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Policy Manager, International Higher Education
Advanced Learning & Science Directorate
Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 2 February 2018 10:34
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

Thanks [redacted].

[redacted], [redacted] and [redacted], happy to leave you to comment on possible lines re nursing numbers as appropriate.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 10:29
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

Hi [redacted]

[redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] in Health Directorate, who are all cced into this email, lead on nursing.

[redacted]

Policy Manager | Student Support & Participation Team | Higher Education & Science Division
Scottish Government | 6th floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU
Ext [redacted] | BB [redacted] | [redacted]

From:[redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2018 10:27
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted] I wonder if it might be more in your area for international students?

[redacted], do we know who leads in Health workforce planning on Nursing student places that we could approach?

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 02 February 2018 10:21

To: redacted; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

[redacted]

I will provide [redacted] with lines on access. Is someone on your side able to provide something on international students and nursing?

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Strategic Lead - Access to Higher Education | Higher Education & Science Division | Directorate for Advanced Learning & Science | Scottish Government

☎: [redacted] or [redacted] | ✉: [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 02 February 2018 07:40

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

Hi [redacted]

(cc removing policy for the minute)

I think what you have outlined below sounds good. Will see what policy come back with.

[redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Advanced Learning and Skills Analysis | Education Analytical Services

The Scottish Government

[redacted] | X: [redacted] | BB: [redacted] | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 February 2018 20:50
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

OK thanks [redacted]. I'm not in until lunchtime tomorrow but will make a start on something as soon as I can.

[Redacted]

Does this sound OK? Grateful for policy input.

[redacted]

Can policy please provide me with something to work from?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 1 February 2018 17:59
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; Macdonald R (Roddy); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS Applicant Statistics 2018 Cycle - Embargoed - Monday 5th February

All

As previously mentioned to comms, due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be no analytical support this weekend.

I will be available to sign off lines until 5pm tomorrow (Friday). [redacted] will be in on Monday to provide reactive lines.

[redacted] – As this is Management information and not official statistics, you are welcome to share with Health comms re Nursing numbers but please make sure they understand the release date embargo.

Thanks

[redacted]

p.s. please note I have been omitted from the e-mail below...

[redacted] | Advanced Learning and Skills Analysis | Education Analytical Services
The Scottish Government
[redacted] | X: [redacted] | BB: [redacted] | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 01 February 2018 17:15

To: Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

Cc: First Minister; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Employability and Training; Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); Smart P (Paul); Halliday R (Roger); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - UCAS End of Cycle Report Providers Data - Embargoed - Thursday 25th January

Official Sensitive – Embargoed Statistics until 00:01 Monday 5th February 2018.

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science,

UCAS will publish 'UCAS application rates by the January deadline' on the 5th February.

The UCAS statistics provide details of applicants (people) and applications (choices) received by the main 15th January UCAS deadline for entry into university. It is the first reliable indicator of demand for higher education in 2018-19.

Please find attached the submission, UCAS news release and UCAS analysis report.

UCAS news release

UCAS Analysis report

Kind Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

ALSA – Advanced Learning Statistics
Atlantic Quay, Clyde 6th Floor
Scottish Government
X[redacted]
External [redacted]

RESTRICTED – Official Sensitive

*Please treat as **restricted**, for the named individuals or identified post holders only. Not for sharing with anyone else, not to be used in other documents, not to be saved in a shared file (**including communal mailboxes**), before publication on 5 February 2018.*

*If you think you need to discuss and share with anyone not on the circulation list contact me. Any accidental or **wrongful release should be reported to me immediately and may lead to an investigation**. Wrongful release includes indications of the content or the trend of the figures, including descriptions such as 'favourable' or 'unfavourable'.*

You are given access to these statistics under the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008. The above is a summary of the statutory conditions which you as a recipient of pre-release access official statistics must follow. For full details please contact [redacted].

From: [redacted]
Advanced Learning & Skills Analysis
01 February 2018

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science

UCAS – APPLICANT STATISTICS AS AT 15 JANUARY DEADLINE

Purpose

1. To inform the Minister of UCAS statistics being released on 5 February 2018 covering applicant figures as at the 15 January deadline for the 2018-19 academic year.

Priority

2. Immediate. Please treat the attached statistics and any indication of the results as **official sensitive** until their public release at 00:01, 5 February 2018.

Background

3. UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admission Service) provide application services to UK universities and colleges for full time higher education courses, the majority being at undergraduate level. UCAS provide regular updates to figures on applicants and acceptances throughout the application process.
4. These UCAS statistics provide details of applicants (people) and applications (choices) received by the main 15th January UCAS deadline for entry into university. It is the first reliable indicator of demand for higher education in 2018-19.
5. UCAS deal with between a third to a half of undergraduate entrants to Scottish institutions, as part-time and many sub-degree courses do not go through UCAS. Trends in applicants may not necessarily represent trends in acceptances.

Summary

- Applicants to Scottish HEIs are up, this goes against the trend for UK HEIs.
- Scottish and Not-EU domiciled applicants to Scottish HEIs are up.
- EU domiciled applicants to Scottish HEIs are down, this compares to EU domiciled applicants to English HEIs which increased since last year.
- The application rate for 18 year old from SIMD20 has decreased, but the number of those applying of all ages has increased/

Key statistics – 2018 Cycle (See Annex A for table)

Scottish domiciles and Scottish Providers

- The number of Scottish domiciles applying to any UK HEI increased by 0.8% compared to the same point last year (an increase of 370 applicants to 44,900).
- The number of applicants (from any country) applying to study at a Scottish HEI increase by 1,480 compared to the same point last year to 114,160 (1%).

- The number of applicants (from any country) applying to any UK HEI decreased by 5,160 compared to the same point last year (-1%).
- The number of Scottish domiciles applying to Scottish HEIs increased by 1.0% compared to last year, increasing by 430 applicants to 44,300 in the 2018 cycle.
 - The number of English domiciles applying to English HEIs decrease by 3.0% compared to last year, decreasing by 11,500 applicants to 373,620 in the 2018 cycle.
- The number of English domiciles applying to Scottish HEIs decreased by 1.0% compared to last year, decreasing by 300 applicants to 29,970 in the 2018 cycle.
- The number of previously applied Scottish domiciles applying to any UK HEI decreased by 120 (-2%) applicants to 5,880 in the 2018 cycle.

EU (excluding UK) domiciles

- The number of EU domiciles applying to Scottish HEIs decreased by 0.5% compared to last year, decreasing by 90 applicants to 17,790 in the 2018 cycle.
- This compares to the number of EU domiciles applying to English HEIs increasing by 3.2% compared to last year, increasing by 1,160 applicants to 36,900.

Not EU domiciles

- The number of Not-EU domiciles applying to Scottish HEIs increased by 13.1% compared to last year, increasing by 1,870 applicants to 16,170 in the 2018 cycle.
- This compares to the number of not-EU domiciles applying to English HEIs increasing by 11.1% compared to last year, increasing by 5,720 applicants to 57,440.

SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)

- The number of (all age) applicants from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland increased by 110 (+1%) to 12,380.
- The numbers of 18 year old applicants from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland decreased by 70 (-4%) to 1,900.
- The application rate for 18 year olds living in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland (SIMD) was 16.7%, this is a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from a record high last year, and the first decrease since 2008. It is however a 6.7 percentage point increase from 2006. UCAS state that “this means that Scottish 18 year olds from the most disadvantaged areas are 67 per cent more likely to apply in 2018 than 12 years ago”. (Application rate is the proportion of the population each year that applies).
- The equivalent application rate figure for the 20% least deprived areas of Scotland was 50.5%, this is an increase of 1 percentage point since 2017.

Age

- 18 year old Scottish domiciled applicants have decreased by 660 applicants to 18,060 over the year (-4%).
- This compares to the 21-24 age group that has increased by 290 applicants to 7,490, (+4%) and the 25 and over age group that has increased by 590 to 9,270 (+7%).

Application rates

- Application rates for 18 year old Scottish domiciles decreased by 0.5% to 32.5%. The equivalent rate for 18 year old English domiciled applicants increased by 0.4% to 37.4%.
- Application rates for Scottish domiciled aged 20 years or older increased across all age groups.

Nursing & other subjects

- The number of Scottish domiciled applicants applying to nursing courses in the UK increased by 4% (190 applicants) to 4,820. This compares to a 13% decrease seen by English domiciled applicants applying to nursing courses.
- However, there has been a slight decrease in the number of all domiciled applicants applying to nursing courses at Scottish providers (by 30 applicants).
- Further breakdowns by subject group will also be published. ASD can provide further details upon request.

Gender

- UCAS are publishing breakdowns on gender. The UCAS news release states; 'In Scotland, an increase in the rate of young men applying, and a decrease in the rate of young women applying, means that young Scottish women are now 56 per cent more likely to apply than Scottish men, a reduction compared to 2017.'
- ASD can provide further details upon request.

POLAR3 and POLAR4

- UCAS publish Scottish statistics by SIMD and POLAR. In Scotland we use SIMD as this is a measure of deprivation and is more widely used across Scotland. POLAR is a measure of participation and is less effective in Scotland due to a lower proportion of the Scottish population living in low participation areas. Further details of the differences between POLAR and SIMD is included in Annex B.

Handling

6. TBC

Recommendation

We recommend that you:

- note the statistics

[redacted]

Advanced Learning & Skills Analysis

X[redacted]

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness

First Minister					X
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills			X		
Minister for Employability and Training					X
Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe					X

DG Education, Communities and Justice	[redacted]
Director of Advanced Learning and Science	[redacted]
	[redacted]
Roddy MacDonald	[redacted]
Paul Smart	[redacted]
Roger Halliday	[redacted]
	[redacted]
[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	
	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	
[redacted]	

Annex A – Key Findings from the January Deadline Analysis

Applicants for all courses by country of domicile and provider, 15 January deadline

Country of Provider	Country of Domicile	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change between 2017 & 2018
Scotland	UK	74,130	75,010	79,530	80,350	80,500	80,200	-0.4%
	<i>Scotland</i>	39,360	40,470	44,430	44,740	43,870	44,300	1.0%
	<i>England</i>	27,950	28,370	28,940	29,190	30,270	29,970	-1.0%
	EU (excluding UK)	17,770	17,610	18,140	18,670	17,880	17,790	-0.5%
	Not- EU	11,330	12,510	13,180	13,710	14,300	16,170	13.1%
	Total	103,220	105,140	110,850	112,730	112,680	114,160	1.3%
England	UK	422,670	437,570	441,130	439,790	414,760	402,090	-3.1%
	<i>Scotland</i>	4,080	4,090	4,180	4,360	4,040	3,900	-3.5%
	<i>England</i>	393,620	407,600	410,420	408,260	385,120	373,620	-3.0%
	EU (excluding UK)	31,140	33,140	35,900	38,510	35,740	36,900	3.2%
	Not- EU	45,550	49,420	51,100	51,670	51,720	57,440	11.1%
	Total	499,360	520,140	528,140	529,960	502,220	496,430	-1.2%
UK	UK	474,310	489,940	497,550	495,940	469,490	457,070	-3.0%
	<i>Scotland</i>	39,950	41,080	45,100	45,420	44,530	44,900	1.0%
	<i>England</i>	394,330	408,300	411,420	408,990	385,870	374,440	-1.0%
	EU (excluding UK)	37,990	39,780	42,720	45,220	42,070	43,510	3.0%
	Not- EU	46,510	50,290	52,020	52,560	52,630	58,450	11.0%
	Total	558,820	580,000	592,290	593,720	564,190	559,030	-1.0%

Please note in 2015, around 120 courses at providers in Scotland that were previously part of the UCAS Teacher Training scheme, moved into the UCAS undergraduate scheme. **This is estimated to be around 2,000 acceptances per year, mostly aged 21 and over.** Due to this increase, we **should not be quoting comparisons across 2014 and 2015.**

Annex B – A short Guide to POLAR (Participation of Local Areas) Classification

What is POLAR?

POLAR (the participation of local areas classification) is a ranking based on the proportion of young people who enter higher education (HE) for each local area in the UK over recent years. POLAR covers HE at both universities and colleges.

HE includes all first degree and postgraduate study as well as some sub-degree provision (such as HNCs and HNDs), at both higher education institutions (HEIs) and further education colleges.

Who produces POLAR?

It is produced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) who use it to inform targeting, and support analysis of widening access.

How is POLAR produced?

POLAR groups areas across the UK based on the proportion of the young population that participates in HE. The areas are then ranked by their young participation rates and placed into five groups; ordered for group Q1 (those areas with the lowest participation) to group Q5 (those areas with the highest participation). These groups are often referred to as 'most disadvantaged' and 'least disadvantaged' respectively but it is important to note POLAR is a measure of participation, not deprivation.

Why is POLAR less suitable for Scotland?

Traditionally, Scotland has relatively high rates of HE participation, currently 55% for under 30s compared to the English rate of 47%. As a result, Scotland has fewer low participation areas than England and therefore a lower proportion of Scotland's young population are in low participation areas. This means the actual number of applicants, entrants or students from POLAR low participation areas will be relatively low in Scotland. This makes meaningful comparisons difficult.

Who uses POLAR?

POLAR is used in the HE sector in the UK, although less so in Scotland. The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) report on the numbers of entrants from POLAR low participation areas as part of their UK Performance Indicators (PIs). This indicator is used to measure widening access at UK institution level but HESA exclude Scottish universities for this particular PI because of the known issue around participation levels in Scotland. Indeed, they have highlighted that "the figures for Scottish [universities] could, when viewed in isolation, misrepresent their contribution to widening participation".

The Universities and College Admission Service (UCAS) use POLAR to make comparisons between the 'most disadvantaged' and 'least disadvantaged' groups in each country of the UK when analysing application rates (which relate to demand) and acceptance rates (which relate to entry). The main issue with these figures is the coverage of the UCAS data. UCAS data include applicants and entrants to HE courses at colleges in the rest of the UK but not in Scotland. Colleges play a key role in delivering HE in Scotland, with 17% of the HE students studying at college in 2013-14 and these students are excluded from UCAS data. For comparison, in England 6% of HE students study at college but these students are included in UCAS data.

What is the difference between SIMD and POLAR?

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a measure of deprivation whereas POLAR is a measure of participation. Those in SIMD 20 are from areas in the bottom 20% in Scotland, in terms of deprivation. Those in POLAR Q1 are from areas in the bottom 20% in the UK in terms of HE participation. In Scotland, SIMD tends to be used to measure progress in widening access to HE, rather than POLAR.

The following table sets out the key differences between the two measures:

Question	POLAR	SIMD
Who calculates it?	HEFCE	SG
What does it measure?	Participation in HE	Deprivation
Which areas does it rank?	Census Area Wards - close fit for the Westminster electoral wards - minimum size of 50 residents and 20 households	Data zones - designed to have population between 500 and 1,000 residents - designed to fit physical boundaries and natural communities
Which countries does it cover?	All UK countries	Scotland only
Which group are we interested in for widening access purposes?	Those in POLAR disadvantaged areas (low participation areas)	Those in the 20% most deprived areas.
What percentage of the Scottish population of interest lives in these areas	10.6%	Approximately 20%
What percentage of Scottish domiciled full-time first degree entrants to HEIs are from these areas?	5.8% (1,640 students)	14.0% (4,015 students)

SIMD and POLAR maps

A map of SIMD areas in Scotland can be found here: <http://simd.scot/2016>

A map of POLAR areas across the UK can be found here:
http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/yp/POLAR/Map_of_young_participation_areas/

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30 January 2018 15:44
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: For awareness: UCAS application statistics as at January deadline 2018 cycle

Afternoon all,

Just to give a heads up, UCAS will be publishing the application (*choices*) and applicant (*people*) statistics as at the 15 January deadline, at midnight on Monday 5 February.

Not only will this provide the number of Scottish domiciled applicants applying to Universities, it will also give us the first indication of the number of EU domiciled applicants applying for the 2018-19 academic year. UCAS have also confirmed that they will also be publishing an SIMD breakdown.

We expect to receive the data on Thursday and will send up a submission as soon as possible. We anticipate that UCAS will brief and supply the data to the media at the same time as ourselves.

Since this is a Monday release, it would be greatly appreciated if lines/news release/ infographics can be agreed by 4.30 on Friday as unfortunately there will be no analysts accessible over the weekend.

As an indication of the breakdown of statistics that will be available I have provided the lines from last year's submission below.

Happy to discuss.

Many thanks

[redacted]

*****Last Year's Submission*****

UCAS 2017 January Deadline Applicant Figures

Scottish domiciles and Scottish Providers

- The number of **Scottish domiciles applying to any UK HEI** decreased by 2% compared to the same point last year (a decrease of 890 applicants to 44,530).
- The number of **applicants (from any country)** applying to study at a **Scottish HEI** decreased by 50 compared to the same point last year to 112,680 (no percentage decrease).
 - The number of **applicants (from any country)** applying to any UK HEI decreased by 5% compared to the same point last year.

- The **number of Scottish domiciles applying to Scottish HEIs decreased by 2%** compared to last year, decreasing by 870 applicants to 43,870 in the 2017 cycle.

EU (excluding UK) domiciles

- The number of **EU domiciles applying to Scottish HEIs decreased by 4%** compared to last year, decreasing by 790 applicants to **17,880** in the 2017 cycle.

-This compares to the number of **EU domiciles applying to English HEIs decreasing by 7%** compared to last year, decreasing by 2,770 applicants to **35,740**.

Not EU domiciles

- The number of **non-EU domiciles applying to Scottish HEIs increased by 4%** compared to last year, increasing by 590 applicants to **14,300** in the 2017 cycle.

- This compares to the number of **non-EU domiciles applying to English HEIs increasing by 0.1%** compared to last year, increasing by 50 applicants to **51,720**.

SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)

- The **application rate for 18 year olds living in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland (SIMD)** was 17.0%, an increase of 0.7 percentage points since 2016 and 7.0 percentage points since 2006. (*Application rate is the proportion of the population each year that applies.*)

[redacted]

ALSA – Advanced Learning Statistics

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X[redacted]

External [redacted]

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