

## FOI Release

### *Information released under the Freedom of Information Act*

**Title:** Apprenticeships in Brighton and Hove

**Date of release:** 24 October 2013

#### **Information request**

1. Number of apprenticeships offered by employers in Brighton and Hove over the last three years, broken down by employment sector; and
2. specifically the number offered in the trade sectors, such as plumbers and electricians.

#### **Information released**

The Department holds some of the information that has been requested. However, some of the information is already in the public domain and is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the Act as we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible.

Data on Apprenticeship starts by geography and sector subject area for the last three years as requested under (1) are published on the Data Service website. They were last updated on 23rd September 2013 to cover provisional data for the first three quarters of the 2012/13 academic year (August 2012 to April 2013): [http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Statistics/fe\\_data\\_library/Apprenticeships/](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Statistics/fe_data_library/Apprenticeships/)

The specific link is as follows:

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3DA49EDD-EC1F-4F37-8D7A-AC7A0F20E3E8/0/Oct2013\\_Apprenticeship\\_Starts.xls](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3DA49EDD-EC1F-4F37-8D7A-AC7A0F20E3E8/0/Oct2013_Apprenticeship_Starts.xls)

Note that Provisional data for 2012/13 provide an early view of performance and will change as further data returns are received from further education colleges and providers. Caution must be taken when comparing against data from earlier academic years.

Provisional data for the full 2012/13 academic year (August 2012 to July 2013) are due to be published by the end of October. This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the Act because the information is intended for publication at a future date.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. There is a public interest in favour of disclosure as this leads to greater transparency in government. However, the best use of public resources would be applied in pulling this information together, ensuring the information is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format, rather than issuing it in a piecemeal fashion. This information is still being checked prior to publication. Please be assured that the Department is committed to publishing this information.

Having considered the public interest, we consider that the public interest in disclosing this information is outweighed by the public interest considerations in favour of withholding the information. The Department's decision is therefore to withhold the information.

Data on Apprenticeship starts by geography and framework e.g. plumbing and electrotechnical for the last three years as requested under (2) are not published. We can confirm that the Department holds data for 2009/10 to 2011/12 and provisional data the first three quarters of the 2012/13 academic year (August 2012 to April 2013). These are shown in the attached csv file.