

Mr Bruce Beckles

by email

Reference: FOI-2010-57

13 April 2010

Dear Mr Beckles,

Your request was received on 15 March 2010 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked:

*"Please tell me how many staff have been dismissed from the University since 1 January 2004, breaking down the figure by calendar year and staff category (unestablished, assistant, academic-related, academic, etc). Should it not be possible to provide me with all the information I have requested, please take into account that I am most interested in the figures for recent years and for academic and academic-related staff in deciding what information could be provided."*

The University does not hold authentic figures for the number of staff dismissed since 1 January 2004. In order to obtain reliable information in response to your request, it would be necessary to search each of the approximately 7,500 manual files which relate to personnel whose employment terminated during that period and ascertain the reason for leaving in each case. A test exercise indicates that it would take on average two minutes and forty five seconds to search each file for such a purpose. By reason of section 12 of the FOIA, the University is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit, which is £450 in the case of the University and represents the cost of one person spending 18 hours locating and retrieving the information in question. For the reasons given above, the University estimates that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit, even if the exercise were confined to a single year, and accordingly your request will not be processed further.

However, a certain amount of leavers' information is held on the University's Secqus and CHRIS systems. Data are entered on to these systems at local level and the consistency of input required to obtain reliable results cannot be guaranteed. However, it is possible from these systems to obtain rough estimates of the number of staff dismissed since 1 January 2004. Such estimates, although falling outside the precise scope of your request, are now attached for your information. Please note



# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Secretariat

that the attachment should not be copied, reproduced or used except in accordance with the law of copyright.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of this decision, you should write to the Administrative Secretary, quoting the reference above, at the Secretariat, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TN. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Allen'.

Kirsty Allen

Source of data: 2004-2005 Secqus  
 2006-2010 CHRIS

2004	Assistant	Academic (Established)	Academic (Unestablished)	Academic-Related (Established)	Academic-Related (Unestablished)	Research	Total
Total	338	14	42	4	33	521	952

  

2005	Assistant	Academic (Established)	Academic (Unestablished)	Academic-Related (Established)	Academic-Related (Unestablished)	Research	Total
Total	246	11	31	1	23	525	837

  

2006	Assistant	Academic (Established)	Academic (Unestablished)	Academic-Related (Established)	Academic-Related (Unestablished)	Research	Total
Total	172	9	28	1	16	398	624

  

2007	Assistant	Academic (Established)	Academic (Unestablished)	Academic-Related (Established)	Academic-Related (Unestablished)	Research	Total
Total	242	8	19	0	16	407	692

  

2008	Assistant	Academic (Established)	Academic (Unestablished)	Academic-Related (Established)	Academic-Related (Unestablished)	Research	Total
Total	328	7	37	1	25	495	893

  

2009	Assistant	Academic (Established)	Academic (Unestablished)	Academic-Related (Established)	Academic-Related (Unestablished)	Research	Total
Total	408	9	15	2	25	454	913

  

2010 (at March 2010)	Assistant	Academic (Established)	Academic (Unestablished)	Academic-Related (Established)	Academic-Related (Unestablished)	Research	Total
Total	69	0	0	0	9	69	147