

Mary Dezille
Administrative Officer

Mr Julian King
by email

Ref: FOI-2008-131



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Secretariat

1 December 2008

Dear Mr King,

Your request was received on 3 November 2008 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

“Could you provide me with a copy of the Internal Audit Report on Identity Management that I am told has been published internally?”

The University holds a copy of the internal audit report to which you refer. However, please note that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) entitles individuals to have access to information, and not to documents. Your email did not identify the particular information which you wished to have communicated to you. The University has not, however, asked you to identify such information, because all the information contained in the report is in any event exempt from disclosure under section 36 of the FOIA, the Vice-Chancellor (who is a “qualified person” for the purposes of that section) being of the reasonable opinion that disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs, i.e. the affairs of the University, which is a public authority under the FOIA.

The Vice-Chancellor’s opinion is held on the following basis:

- (1) that public disclosure of any of the information contained in the report would potentially inhibit the future free and frank exchange of views and would thereby prejudice the effectiveness of the University’s internal audit process generally; and
- (2) that the internal audit report is part of a continuing dialogue between the University and its internal auditors and contains sensitive information about its information systems and security management, such that disclosure of the information could put at risk the integrity of those systems.

The University has had due regard to the balance of the public interest in this case. The University has taken into account the general public interest in the transparent conduct of public affairs. However, it is noted in this regard that the information contained in the report

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does not relate to core public services provided by the University or concern significant expenditure of public funds. The University has also considered on the other hand the public interest in maintaining the effectiveness of its internal audit process and in protecting the integrity of its information systems. It is noted in this context that the report was only recently issued (in June 2008) and its contents remain current and sensitive in nature. In all the circumstances of this particular case, the University has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information contained in the report.

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,



Mary Dezille

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