

# LIBRARY FINES: FACTS AND FIGURES

## INTRODUCTION

In common with other Scottish Universities, Heriot-Watt University has experienced a significant increase in the number of requests for information relating to library fines.

In order to minimise the impact of the requests on staff who provide the Library services to the students, we have compiled these facts and figures based on the information requested by journalists, members of the public, etc.

## HOW MUCH HAVE STUDENTS FINED OVER THE PAST YEARS

The figures below represent the fines paid by our students at our Scottish campuses only (there were just under 9,000 enrolled students in 2016/17). We also have Library facilities at our Dubai and Malaysia campuses. For further information about these overseas facilities, please email us at [foi@hw.ac.uk](mailto:foi@hw.ac.uk) or visit our websites:

- [Dubai](#)
- [Malaysia](#)

The fines paid by our students based at our Scottish campuses in recent years are as follows:

Academic year	Amounts in £s
2010-2011	29,000
2011-2012	21,000
2012-2013	14,000
2013-2014	10,000
2014-2015	7,000
2015-2016	6,000
2016-2017	8,000

## WHY DOES THE UNIVERSITY IMPOSE FINES?

Our fines are imposed to try and encourage users to return books promptly so that other students can use them. Our new Library Management Platform (Ex Libris Alma) is set up to ensure that we only fine for overdue books which have specifically been requested by other students.

## WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE INCOME?

The income generated from these fines is re-invested back into the library e.g. purchasing of new and/or replacing damaged books so others can also have access to them. To put the figures above into perspective, we spend approximately £1.5 million annually on books and journals.

## WHAT ARE THE TOP 10 OUTSTANDING FINES AND FOR WHAT ITEMS/BOOKS

We have no business need to record/generate 'top 10s' and so this information is also exempt from release under Section 17 of the Scottish Act: Information not held.

## WHAT ARE THE OUTSTANDING FINES FOR BORROWED ITEMS FROM OUR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY?

Our accounting system does not break down 'outstanding debts' by type e.g. outstanding library fines so this information is exempt under Section 17 of the Scottish Act: information not held.

## WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU PROVIDE TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO MINIMISE THEIR FINES?

Information regarding the services provided by our Libraries across all our Campuses can be found on our [Borrowing from HWU libraries](#) webpage. Fines are only incurred on overdue books which have been specifically requested by another library user.