

Our Ref: FOI2021/127

Paul Brown
request-767263-4ce45db5@whatdotheyknow.com

Thursday, 15 July 2021

Dear Paul Brown,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Regarding your request for information received by the University of Westminster on 21st June 2021.

The Request

The University can confirm that it holds information relating to your request. Please see below for details of your recent request.

MS Teams is used by The University of Westminster to communicate and share information.

Please detail what information from MS Teams is collected.

Who has access to this data?

How long is this data retained for?

Are those using privately owned devices allowed to access this data?

What controls are in place to insure this data, if downloaded to a private device, is handled in a manner compliant with GDPR and UK specific data protection?

The Response

MS Teams collects three types of data about the app: error reporting data, usage data and census data. Census data includes information like type of device, operating system, user language, and a generated specific user ID that is hashed twice in order to anonymise individuals.

Highly authorised administrators are the only people who have access to this data.

The time period the data is retained for is currently under review.

Regarding privately owned devices and controls, the University exempts this information under Section 31 Law Enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act.

For your information Section 31 says:

31 Law enforcement.

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

(a) the prevention or detection of crime,

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/31>

The University believes that information relating to Bring Your Own Device Teams data download logs and controls are specific to the University and disclosing this information to the public would be likely to prejudice our security and crime prevention and detection measures.

The University therefore exempts the disclosure of this information under Section 31 Law Enforcement.

We hope this may be of use to you.

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If you are dissatisfied with this response you may ask the University to conduct a review of its decision.

By Post: Information Compliance Team
University of Westminster
3rd floor, 32-38 Wells Street
London, W1T 3UW

By Telephone: 0207 911 5158
By Email: foi@westminster.ac.uk

Please do so in writing (including by fax, letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape), describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence.

If after contacting the University of Westminster you are not happy with the outcome, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed.

By Post: Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

By Telephone: 01625 545 700

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team
foi@westminster.ac.uk