

Our Reference: FOI.2019.09.413

**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Legal Services

**Director
Mrs C M E Pike LLB
Solicitor**

James Murphy
What Do They Know

(By Email)

15 October 2019

Dear Mr Murphy

Re: request for information under The Freedom of Information Act.

Further to your request for information dated 9 September 2019, please find attached the University of Birmingham's response. If you have any queries with regard to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note our statement in respect of Copyright, which is also attached.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask for an internal review. The University's Complaints and Appeals procedure is available at

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/governance/policies-regs/information/index.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University of Birmingham

Encs

Your request for information reads:

I am writing to request copies of periodic communications between the Vice-Chancellor of your institution and all staff working at the University. These circulars might be sent by email and/or placed on the university intranet and may be described as Vice Chancellor's Updates or something similar. Could you please provide all such communications for the last 5 years or as long as you have recorded if this is shorter?

The University of Birmingham responds:

The University of Birmingham is required to respond to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") if it holds the information being requested, unless it is appropriate to apply one of the limited exemptions set out in the Act.

The Vice-Chancellor routinely writes a column for "Buzz" the University's magazine and these are available, from 2011 onwards, on line at <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/buzz/editions/index.aspx>.

Refusal Notice 1 explains why you are being referred to the website for this data and Refusal Notice 2 explains why the University is not providing any additional data in response to this request.

Refusal Notice 1

Reasons for non-disclosure

Section 21 – Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information reasonably accessible by other means

The information you have requested is available to the public on the University's website. Therefore, under Section 21 of the Act, the University has not provided this information. More information about this exemption is available on the Information Commissioner's Office's website. <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Refusal Notice 2

Reasons for non-disclosure

Section 12 – Freedom of Information - The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Having circulated your request to colleagues, it has been confirmed that the exemption in Section 12 of the Act applies as it will take more than 18 hours to

- Determine whether the University holds the information that you have requested;
- Find the requested information, or records containing the information;
- Retrieve the information or records; and
- Extract the requested information from records.

This is because the University does not have a central repository of all the Vice-Chancellor's staff communications. It is estimated that this will take in excess of 18 hours in total to provide details of staff communications sent by the Vice Chancellor.

The University is unable to suggest a way in which your request could be revised so that the information you are seeking could be provided within 18 hours.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 12 of the Act and the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004, the University has not provided the information you have requested.

More information about this section of the Act is available on the Information Commissioner's Office's website. <https://ico.org.uk/>

The University of Birmingham

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