

Mr G Hay  
[request-754614-f8d363e7@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-754614-f8d363e7@whatdotheyknow.com)

10 June 2021  
Our Ref: FOI/2021/235

Dear Mr Hay

### Your Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email, which was received by the University on 12 May 2021. The University's response is set out in the enclosed document.

### Your right to seek a review

Should you be dissatisfied with the way in which the University has dealt with your request, you have the right to require us to review our actions and decisions. If you wish to request a review, please contact the General Counsel, Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET or e-mail: [foi\\_requests@aston.ac.uk](mailto:foi_requests@aston.ac.uk) within 40 working days. Your request must be in a recordable format (letter, email, audio tape, etc). You will receive a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of its receipt.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for review you may ask the Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your complaint in writing to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving the response to review letter. The Commissioner may be contacted at:

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

Tel: 0303 123 1113 / 01625 545 745 (+44 1625 545 745 if calling from overseas)  
Fax: 01625 524 510

E-mail: [notification@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:notification@ico.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

*Alice Mineyko*

**Alice Mineyko**  
Counsel

Your request	Our response
<p>Please provide all "return to on-campus teaching" plans (complete or incomplete) produced in 2021 for Aston Business School, produced prior to or on the 12th of May.</p>	<p>The University's plans for return to on-campus teaching form part of its wider business continuity arrangements. As the pandemic situation has developed, the University's planning has been adapted in response to the changing government guidance.</p> <p>We consider that it would be contrary to the commercial interests of the University to release details of our business continuity arrangements, including details of how these change over time. Disclosure of such details gives an indication of the University's readiness to deal with exceptional circumstances and the resource involved in responding. This information is therefore withheld (please see section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000).</p> <p>We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information, despite the exemption being applicable. The University has a communications plan in place to ensure that students are kept updated on a timely basis. While we acknowledge that there is a legitimate public interest in transparency around the services provided by universities and how these have been affected by the pandemic, we have concluded that in this instance the need to protect the University's commercial interests outweighs the transparency argument.</p>