



23 March 2022

File ref: FOI2022/00104

J Dennis

Sent by email: request-836902-
8e9f8204@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear J Dennis

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00104

Thank you for your email of 25 February 2022 requesting information about connections with Russia.

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are globally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 430 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2020/21 our annual revenue was £1.18 billion, of which £324 million was research income. We have over 45,000 students and over 16,000 staff. We are a founding member of the UK's Russell Group of leading research universities and a member of the League of European Research Universities.

International range of activities

The University operates on an international stage and this is reflected in all areas of university life. The institution has a range of framework agreements with leading universities, ministries and governments throughout the world. We collaborate daily with national and international colleagues - jointly researching, teaching, organising conferences and providing seminars. We also offer a growing number of jointly awarded PhD degree programmes in partnership with universities within the UK and beyond.

Connections with Russia

Funding from Russian sources

You asked for information about funding from Russian sources, both governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Major prospective donations to the University always undergo a rigorous due diligence process and until the end of 2021 they went before our Ethical Fundraising Advisory Group. Since then, the Income Due Diligence Group now considers and advises on whether the source and purpose of donations, fundraising and other funded activities are ethically acceptable.

As you did not specify a time frame for this question I am providing information for the last five academic/financial years, from 2016/17 to present. In this period, the University has received no funding from any organisation or individual based in Russia.

Visits from high profile Russian visitors, gifts received by the University or staff from Russian sources, official university visits by staff to Russia

You asked for information about visits from high profile Russian individuals, gifts received by the University or University staff from Russian sources, and any official visits by to Russia by University staff.

So that the University's schools and subject areas are managed according to their individual and distinctive operational needs, the University operates a devolved management structure comprising three academic colleges, subdivided into twenty-one schools, and three support groups, subdivided into some seventy support services. The information you request for each of these questions could be held by a range of departments within this structure. To respond to your requests fully, I would have to contact a number of local areas within the University to establish the location of relevant information in relation to each question. Doing this would cost more than £600 for each question, the limit over which the University is not required to respond to freedom of information requests. If you were to restrict your requests to named individuals, the cost would be reduced. However, please be aware that it may be the case that information would be exempted from disclosure on grounds of potential disclosure of personal information. A list of the [University's schools and departments](#) is available on our website.

Details of the meetings held on 27th June 2018 between Peter Mathieson and the Russian Ambassador

You asked for details of meetings held on 27th June 2018 between Peter Mathieson and the Russian Ambassador. Principal Peter Mathieson met with Consul General Andrey Pritsepov and Vice Consul Anastasia Iliinskaya. They discussed a potential study tour of Russian universities, to be undertaken by senior representatives of Scotland's universities.

Documents, memos or emails mentioning or discussing the death of Edinburgh academic Alexander Kagansky

You asked for any documents, memos or emails mentioning or discussing the death of Edinburgh academic Alexander Kagansky.

Information regarding this request for could be held by a range of departments within the University. To respond to your request fully, I would have to contact a number of local areas within the University to establish the location of relevant information. Doing this would cost more than £600, the limit over which the University is not required to respond to freedom of information requests. If you were to restrict your request to a specific area within the University, the cost would be reduced. However, please be aware that it may be the case that information would be exempted from disclosure on grounds of potential disclosure of personal information, and that the cost may still be still prove to be over the £600 limit. A list of the [University's schools and departments](#) is available on our website.

Details of funding received from Russkiy Mir

You asked for details of funding received from Russkiy Mir, including the £221,000 received for the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre.

Since 2010 the University has received a total of £221,073 in funding from the Russkiy Mir Foundation. This included initial funding to provide furniture, equipment and stationery for the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, funding towards an international conference in December 2014, and annual funding for the salary of one post.

Following an expression of interest from the Foundation in establishing a relationship and subsequent discussions, the Russkiy Mir Foundation's provision of financial support to the Centre was established through an Agreement of Cooperation in February 2009. In 2010 and 2011 contracts for donations for furniture and equipment for the new Centre were also agreed. A 2011 donation agreement for funds to cover the salary costs of one post in the Centre was signed annually.

From 2018 onwards, the University has had no active agreements with the Russkiy Mir Foundation and does not expect that situation to change. The University of Edinburgh's Princess Dashkova Centre has received no funding from the Russkiy Mir Foundation since December 2017 when it received £12,000 as payment for outstanding funds related to historic part funding of the salary of one junior member of staff.

Further information regarding the [Princess Dashkova Russian Centre](#) can be found on the University website.

Details of the talk and any meetings held with Russian Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko

Finally, you asked for details of the talk and any meetings held with Russian Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko on or around 1st Dec 2017. I can confirm that Alexander Yakovenko gave a talk at the University on 30 November 2017 on the theme of Russian foreign policy, followed by questions from the audience. I can confirm that no meeting was held between the then Principal and the Ambassador on or around this date.

Information regarding any other meetings which could have been arranged between the Ambassador and University representatives could be held by a range of departments within the University. To respond to your request fully, I would have to contact a number of local areas within the University to establish the location of relevant information. Doing this would cost more than £600, the limit over which the University is not required to respond to freedom of information requests. If you were to restrict your request to a specific area or named individual(s) within the University, the cost would be reduced.

Right to review

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review of this decision by contacting the University's Records Management Section in writing (e.g. by letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape). You should describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. The contact details for the Records Management Section are at

the top of this letter. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may use the [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) to make an appeal to the Commissioner. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the relevant web pages.

Privacy notice for information request applicants

[The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice](#), which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is published on the University website.

Yours sincerely

David Ward
Records Management Section

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk