

Data Protection and Information Compliance
Governance, Information and Legal Team
103 Borough Road
London SE1 0AA
Email: xxx@xxxx.xx.xx

15 October 2019

Dear Stuart Lawson

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Information Request Ref: FOI 19199

Further to your Freedom of Information request on 22/09/2019, London South Bank University (LSBU) has now considered your request and completed its search for the information requested. Our response is attached, together with a copy of your request.

We regret that on this occasion it is not possible to provide all of the information requested. This letter acts as a partial refusal notice in line with section 17 of the Act. The Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release to the public domain. The following exemption has been applied to your request:

Section 43 (2) – *Commercial Interest*

The release of the University's journal spend by publisher would prejudice both the publishers' and the University's commercial interests. This is because the information comprises of payments made/price paid by the University to the publishers subject to agreements currently in place covering the most recent financial year and future years. Therefore, this is directly linked to the University's commercial activity. It discloses the University's own position as a purchaser and the publishers' position as sellers in a competitive, commercial environment. The University considers that disclosure of this commercially sensitive information would prejudice the bargaining position of the University and that of the publishers by disclosing the pricing mechanism.

We have also considered the public interest in disclosing this information and have decided to uphold the exemption. The University has considered the public interest

in transparency and scrutiny of how the University's financial resources are spent purchasing goods or services. On balance, however, LSBU considers that there is stronger public interest not to release the information. The 2015/16 prices paid by the University are considered to be current. Their release would affect both the University and the publishers on a competitive level in the journal market where price is one of key differentiators between publishers.

We have, however, provided you with payments to publishers which were subject to agreements no longer current.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us and quote the reference above in any future communications.

You have the right to appeal against this response. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for the appeal and send it within 20 working days of the date of this letter to the Group Secretary and Clerk to the Board of Governors, London South Bank University, 103 Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Information Compliance

Governance Information and Legal Team
London South Bank University
103 Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA
Email: xxx@xxxx.xx.uk

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000- Information Request Ref FOI 19199

For the years 2017, 2018, and 2019, please publish the total amount paid to each of the following publishers for academic journals:

- *Wiley*
- *Springer*
- *Elsevier*
- *Taylor & Francis*
- *Sage*
- *Oxford University Press*
- *Cambridge University Press*
- *Nature Publishing Group*
- *Royal Society of Chemistry*
- *Institute of Physics Publishing*

I understand that your expenditure records may be held in academic financial years rather than calendar years. If so, I am happy for the response to be provided in the same format, with figures for 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19. (Although 2019 has not ended yet, my understanding is that payments for access to journals for 2019 are likely to have all been made by now.)

The figures should include payments made directly to the publishers as well as any payments made to subscription agents or intermediaries for the purchase of, and/or access to, the publishers' academic journals. They should also include payment for journal packages such as Jisc Collections agreements, as well as for individual journals. Please include VAT where possible, and indicate whether or not figures include VAT.

LSBU's Response

[Please see attached.](#)