

Data Protection and Information Compliance
Governance, Information and Legal Team
103 Borough Road
London SE1 0AA
Email: foi@lsbu.ac.uk

25 March 2020

Dear Stuart Lawson,

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

We refer to your email on 01/03/2019 where you requested a Freedom of Information internal review of FOI 19199, the Group Secretary for London South Bank University (LSBU) has now considered your request for the internal review and has completed his assessment. Our response is below, together with a copy of your request attached.

Your request for a review of our response was that (in summary):

- you disagreed with our reasoning for refusing some of the data and believed that we should release the full information;
- The majority of higher education institutions have released all the data
- we have previously (in 2014) released expenditure figures for previous years (in that case 2010-2014);
- since negotiations for journal agreements usually occur on a sector-wide level through a single central negotiator, it is in our interests for this information to be publicly available so that we can determine whether we are receiving appropriate value;
- there is high public interest in releasing the data, as evidenced by the high level of engagement with earlier data releases;
- the publishing sector is moving towards greater transparency; and
- releasing the full information would demonstrate accountability for the expenditure of public funds.

In reaching our decision we considered that while there is potential that releasing the information will prejudice the commercial interests of the publishers by disclosing details of their pricing mechanisms we have reviewed the arguments for and against releasing the information under the public interest test. We have further consulted internally and accept the arguments made by you in terms of the public interest in releasing the information.

We accept that it is in the public interest to share the information you have requested, and that if Universities do not release this information (what we are paying for journal subscriptions) we would not be able to determine if we are being charged fairly. Therefore transparency serves to enhance our bargaining position and our accountability for expenditure of public funds.

The Group Secretary has therefore decided not to uphold the initial decision to partially exempt information. A revised response is attached.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF and further details can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Information Compliance

Governance Information and Legal Team

London South Bank University

103 Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA

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

Please see the request of FOI 19199 and LSBUs response below.

LSBU's Response (In Blue)

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. (2019 covers the payments for access to journals that should have been made.)

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.

[Please see the attached document.](#)