



Refusal notice s.43(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Information partially withheld.

10th October 2019

Dear Stuart,

Thank you for your freedom of information request as sent to UWTSD on 30th September 2019. I would respond to your questions with the exemption below::

This request (beneath in red) is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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 No subscriptions

Section 43(2) FOIA 2000

The University considers that disclosure of the information which relates to your request (in red above) would be commercially sensitive under s.43(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) and thus likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the University.

The University works in a competitive environment in relation to achieving the best price for subscriptions for academic journals. To achieve these preferable rates takes both senior management time and negotiation in order to achieve the best outcome for both parties (the publisher and the University). By revealing this information the University may thus reveal its competitive advantage to other universities and this may subsequently impact on the future costs of journals and their availability to both staff and students of the University.

The University considers it more probable than not that harm would result from disclosing this information and that section 43(2) FOIA 2000 is therefore engaged.

Public Interest Test

The application of section 43(2) FOIA is the subject to the public interest test. We have considered where the public interest lies in this case and have taken account of the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office in doing so. This requires that the information should be disclosed where that disclosure would be in the greater public interest. This requires consideration of the interests of the public at large, not public curiosity or individual or private group interests.

We have taken account of the fact that there is an assumption that disclosure is in the public interest and that there is a general public interest in transparency and accountability for decision making (and especially financial decision making using public funds). However, these are not expected to be considered in a vacuum and need to be balanced against other public interests which favour withholding information.

We consider that there is a high probability of prejudice from disclosure of the commercially sensitive information under FOIA because disclosure is considered disclosure to the public at large and, to the extent this information would be likely to negatively impact upon the day to day operations of the University. In addition, we do not consider that these granular details add anything to the aggregate information already disclosed when analysing the public interest in the University's accountability for its overall spending.

As such, we do not consider that the disclosure of this withheld information would be likely to further the public interest, but it would be likely to cause harm to the University.

If you wish to request a review of the information provided as part of this freedom of information request you may contact my colleague Lee Bartlett (lee.bartlett@uwtsd.ac.uk) If you remain dissatisfied following the review you may appeal to the Information Commissioner at ico.org.uk. Alternatively, you may write directly to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P H Osborne', followed by a long horizontal stroke.

**Paul Osborne BSocSc(Hons) LLM,
Solicitor**

Swyddog Diogelu Data / Data Protection Officer

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