

**By Email:** [request-471254-b2c2ea6x@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx](mailto:request-471254-b2c2ea6x@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx)

Our Ref: FOI 18 1121

Your Ref:

Dear Mr Carufel

### **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request and your interest in the University of Bedfordshire.

### **Request**

You requested the following information from the University of Bedfordshire, specifically for academic/scientific journals for the latest ten financial or calendar years available:

- 1) How much the University has been spending annually for its subscribed online access to academic journals for each publisher the institution has any academic journal subscription with.
- 2) The titles of each individually-subscribed journal ("à la carte", not part of a bundle package).
- 3) In relation to question 2, the amount the University has been spending annually for each individually-subscribed journal.
- 4) The number of successful full-text article requests for each subscribed journal (and its title) for each of the latest ten financial or calendar years.

In relation to question 4, you requested the data even if a given journal was not part of the university's academic journal subscriptions at some point during that decade, either because of a subscription that happened later or because of the cancellation of a subscription. You asked that this be clearly indicated for the year for which it applies (for instance, with an "X", "Not subscribed", etc.).

### **Response**

In response to questions 1 – 4, the University is of the view that we are exempt from providing the information requested because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

S12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

S12(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

The appropriate limit is set by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 which states at Regulation 3 that:

- (1) This regulation has effect to prescribe the appropriate limit referred to in section 9A(3) and (4) of the 1998 Act and the appropriate limit referred to in section 12(1) and (2) of the 2000 Act.
- (2) In the case of a public authority which is listed in Part I of Schedule 1 to the 2000 Act, the appropriate limit is £600.
- (3) In the case of any other public authority, the appropriate limit is £450.

The University falls within Regulation 3(3) therefore the appropriate limit applicable to the University is £450.

Regulation 4(3) provides the method of assessing whether the cost of complying will exceed the appropriate limit. It states:

- (3) In a case in which this regulation has effect, a public authority may, for the purpose of its estimate, take account only of the costs it reasonably expects to incur in relation to the request in—
  - (a) determining whether it holds the information,
  - (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,
  - (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
  - (d) extracting the information from a document containing it.
- (4) To the extent to which any of the costs which a public authority takes into account are attributable to the time which persons undertaking any of the activities mentioned in paragraph (3) on behalf of the authority are expected to spend on those activities, those costs are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour.

In order to provide the information requested the University will need to undertake a detailed and lengthy assessment of whether we hold the information requested. Thereafter, the University will carry out a search for the relevant information requested covering the past 10 financial or calendar years. The University is a large organisation with a large number of varying academic journal subscriptions, and extracting the requested information is time consuming and will according to our assessment require more than 126 hours of work.

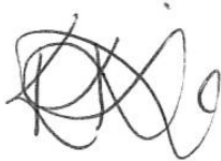
If we are to consider each hour of work at a flat rate of £25.00 (as permitted by Regulation 4(3)(4) of the 2004 Regulations), the total cost for compliance amounts to £3150.00 which exceeds the £450.00 limit set by the 2004 Regulation.

We are of the view that the University is exempt from complying with the request because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

If you are not satisfied by the way we have handled your request, you can request a review by writing to the Senior Legal Officer.

If you are unhappy with the way the University handles your request through our appeals process, you have a right to appeal to the information commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Tel 08456 306060 or 01625 545745 or alternatively visit their website at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirren Barrie', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Kirren Barrie**  
Data Protection Officer  
University of Bedfordshire