



Richard Taylor  
By email

Reference: FOI-2018-240 (Review)

29 May 2018

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your email of 29 April 2018 requesting a review of the response dated 19 April 2018 supplied to you in respect of your request for information dated 24 March 2018. I now reply as the officer responsible for the internal review of the handling of such requests. The purpose of the internal review procedure is to ensure that the University has complied with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

In your email of 29 April 2018 you stated:

*I am writing to request an internal review of University of Cambridge's handling of my FOI request 'Aleksandr Kogan - Activity Reports'. Your reference: FOI-2018-240.  
The University has stated the material is personal information, the disclosure of which to a member of the public would be manifestly unfair.  
I note any reasoning which has led to this conclusion has not been presented. It is impossible to challenge reasoning which has not been shared.  
I would like the internal review to consider if the determination was reasonable. The information requested is not sensitive personal data, it relates to an individual's public life and their role in a public body. There is a legitimate interest in the public having access to the material requested not least as universities are public bodies under the Freedom of Information Act and they are required to operate in a transparent and accountable manner.  
Disclosure of the information requested would inform public debate on the academic activities of the university, and the individual in question. The public interest in this individual's activities, which recent press coverage and Parliamentary activity shows has been considered to be significant by MPs and journalists, is something I think the internal review should ensure is taken into account and given appropriate weight.*

I have considered all the circumstances of the case and I have concluded that the Information Compliance Officer was correct to refuse your request under section 40(3)(a)(i) of the Act. It will be

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very rarely, if ever, that the legitimate interests of the public in accessing information held by the University outweigh the right to privacy of any member of staff in respect of his or her appraisal and related records; members of staff are entitled reasonably to expect their HR records to be handled confidentially. In this particular case, the member of staff in question has explicitly refused consent to disclosure and I am satisfied that there is no sufficient reason to override that individual's rights.

If you remain dissatisfied with the University's handling of this request or with the outcome of this review, you may raise the matter by way of appeal to the Information Commissioner who may be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

David Parsons