



25 November 2022

File ref: IR2022/00573; FOI2022/00572

J Dennis

Sent by email: request-904888-
91c2c140@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear J Dennis

Internal Review: IR2022/00573; FOI2022/00572

Thank you for your email of 2 November 2022 requesting a review of the University's handling of your request for information about the contract and communications between the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh First, FOI2022/00572, on the basis that we failed to provide a response within the statutory 20 working days.

Your request for information was submitted via WhatDoTheyKnow on 4 October. The University's response was due on 1 November 2022. On 2 November you requested a review.

Review decision

The Records Management Section did not receive your original email containing your request because it was caught by the University's spam filter and was not released to our email inbox. Our review decision is therefore that you should receive the response to your request as soon as possible. This letter provides our response to your request and explains your right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office if you are dissatisfied.

Apology

I sincerely apologise for the delay in providing this response. Your original request via WhatDoTheyKnow was caught in a spam filter and should have been subsequently released to us, however, unfortunately it did not get released. We were made aware of your original request when we received your email requesting a review. The rule that caused your original email to be classified as spam is no longer in place, therefore this should not happen again. If your original request had been received by our email mailbox, it would have generated an automatic initial acknowledgement email. As you will see from the WhatDoTheyKnow record of your request, the email was not generated.

Response to your freedom of information request

You asked for the contract(s) signed between the University and Edinburgh First, regarding cafes/catering/retail at campuses, including but not limited to King's Buildings.

Edinburgh First is an old trading name of [UoE Accommodation Ltd](#) which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Edinburgh. It is currently trading as [The University of Edinburgh Hospitality & Events Collection](#). Furthermore, all staff working at the cafes are employees of the University of Edinburgh and many employees are students. The University is a “Living Wage employer”, unlike the majority of the private sector who will pay the lower National Living wage. Furthermore, any profits made are invested back into the University to use on students and research projects amongst other things.

The University does not hold a contract for UoE Accommodation Ltd because it is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University.

You also requested any information/communications about anything regarding competition/anti-competition, and the provision of Edinburgh First with a monopoly on food/retail/catering on campuses at the University.

The University does not have information or communications relevant to your request. There is no reason to discuss competition on University premises as all services are provided by the University or its wholly owned subsidiary.

Right to appeal

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to investigate. You must do so within six months of receipt of this response. The [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) describes the process for making an appeal to the Commissioner, including the application form. If you do not have access to the Internet, I can provide a copy of the relevant web pages, or you can contact the Commissioner's Office using the details below. When the appeal process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you have the right to appeal to the Court of Session, but on a point of law only.

Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9DS

Email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Privacy notice for information request applicants

[The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice](#), which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is published on the University website.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Stewart
Records Management Section

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk