

Mr J Murphy
request-602741-7e621bc0@whatdotheyknow.com

3 October 2019
Our Ref: FOI/1920/040

Dear Mr Murphy

Your Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email, which was received by the University on 10 September 2019. The University's response is set out in the enclosed document.

Your right to seek a review

Should you be dissatisfied with the way in which the University has dealt with your request, you have the right to require us to review our actions and decisions. If you wish to request a review, please contact the General Counsel, Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET or e-mail: foi_requests@aston.ac.uk within 40 working days. Your request must be in a recordable format (letter, email, audio tape, etc). You will receive a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of its receipt.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for review you may ask the Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your complaint in writing to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving the response to review letter. The Commissioner may be contacted at:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 / 01625 545 745 (+44 1625 545 745 if calling from overseas)
Fax: 01625 524 510

E-mail: notification@ico.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Alice Mineyko
Counsel

Your request	Our response
<p>I am writing to request copies of periodic communications between the Vice-Chancellor of your institution and all staff working at the University. These circulars might be sent by email and/or placed on the university intranet and may be described as Vice Chancellor's Updates or something similar. Could you please provide all such communications for the last 5 years or as long as you have recorded if this is shorter?</p>	<p>Please see documents attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>We have omitted documents relating to Aston's current strategy on the basis that these may provide commercial advantage to our competitors. These documents are exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We have considered the public interest test and in our opinion the balance of the public interest lies in ensuring that the University remains able to operate on a competitive basis, thereby ensuring that the funds available to it are efficiently used.</p> <p>Some of the Vice Chancellor's emails contain links to videos. These contain information relating to the University's strategy and will not be made available as they are also commercially sensitive.</p> <p>We have also redacted certain personal information in line with our duty of fair processing under the Data Protection Act 2018.</p>

APPENDIX 1