



Department for Business Innovation & Skills

Security & Information Rights (SIR)
Department for Business, Innovation &
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Robert Kaye
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BIS reference: 13/0389
Date: 22 April 2013

Dear Mr Kaye

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2013 where you requested the following information:

I would like to request any costings held by the Department of the policy of the Labour Party, announced at its 2011 conference, of capping undergraduate tuition fees at £6,000pa.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

As full details of the Labour Party policy proposals were not available, the only analysis undertaken was a simple estimate of the amount of fee income that higher education institutions would lose if fees were capped at £6,000 rather than £9,000. That simple estimate suggested the lost income would be around £2 billion per year at steady state:

[Average fees of £8.1k minus £6k] x 0.95m EU / UK students = **£2 billion**

Some of this money is invested in measures to widen participation, improve fair access and help retention.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Security & Information Rights Unit (xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx).

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Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Higher Education Analysis