

Our ref: FOI/2022/169

Name: Peter Riley
By email to: request-856730-214f2667@whatdotheyknow.com

23 May 2022

Freedom of Information Team

Legal & Governance
University of Liverpool
Foundation Building
765 Brownlow Hill
Liverpool
L69 7ZX

E foi@liverpool.ac.uk
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/legal/>

Dear Peter,

Your request for information received on 23 April 2022 has now been considered. A response is provided below.

Concerning the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Holistic Review of Life Sciences Education Green Paper that included a consultation that closed on 22nd April 2022, will you please send me the complete responses to that consultation.

We can confirm that the University holds the information; however, it is withheld because it falls under the exemption provided by Section 22 of the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) relating to “information Intended for future publication”

22 Information intended for future publication

‘Information is exempt information if-

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).’*

This exemption applies because the results, and feedback on, the Green Paper will be circulated to the Life Sciences teaching community in at least 3 weeks. They will be circulated via the ALLFS mailing list. I understand this is the same mailing list that was used to circulate the Green Paper.

Because this is a qualified exemption under the Act, we are required to consider the balance of the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing it. In line with the terms of these exemptions, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest to provide information ahead of scheduled publication. We have considered the following factors:

Factors in Favour of Disclosure

- Disclosure would help empower interested individuals to analyse and question the activities of the University of Liverpool and help to demonstrate the principles of accountability and transparency.

Factors Against Disclosure

- It is in the public interest to ensure that the publication of the results of any consultation is a planned and managed process.
- It is not in the public interest for information to be provided before the staff who were consulted, receive the results.

- It is appropriate to adhere to the existing processes for information that we already intend to publish to ensure that information is available for all at the same time.

For the reasons outlined above, the University believes that the balance lies in favour of refusing the information at this time. This acts as our Refusal Notice.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request for information, you have a right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to ask the University to review it; however, you must do so within 40 working days of the date of this response. Your request should include our reference number and explain the reason for requesting a review. Email foi@liverpool.ac.uk or write to the Freedom of Information Reviewer, Legal & Governance, University of Liverpool, Foundation Building, 765 Brownlow Hill, Liverpool L69 7ZX. We will respond to your request for an internal review within 20 working days of receipt.

Following an internal review, if you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 0303 123 1113 www.ico.org.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Rothwell

Kirsty Rothwell

Freedom of Information Officer / Data Protection Co-ordinator
Legal & Governance