



Ref. FOI/20201201/6

22 January 2021

Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act	
Your ref	Email dated 22 December 2020
Request	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please could you provide copies of all written documents (including emails, memos etc.) related to the decision to provide £20K funding to "Women's Place UK" for the Liberation 2020 conference and The Political Erasure of Sex research project.2. As part of the request please include any documents related to ensuring the University complied with the Public Sector Equality Duty and in particular any Equality Impact Assessments carried out.

Dear R Bowyer,

I write in reply to your Email dated 22 December 2020, requesting the above information.

Item 1: The report 'The Political Erasure of Sex: Sex and the Census' is an outcome of Professor Selina Todd's research project on ['Women and Equalities Law: Historical Perspectives on Present Issues'](#). The project is funded by a grant from Research England's Quality-related Research Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF), which supports research into evidence-based policy. Dr Jane Clare Jones was appointed as a consultant for the project, and was the lead writer and researcher for the report. In addition, Women's Place UK (WPUK) were paid a consultancy fee of £20,000 to provide the following services in support of the research:

- Consultation with Professor Todd to facilitate meetings with policymakers, including providing contact details and introductions.
- Undertaking and communicating cognisant research to complement that undertaken by Professor Todd and Dr Jones (the Research Assistant on this project)
- Printing costs of a report on the research undertaken by Professor Todd and Dr Jones.
- Organising a London launch of that report to UK Parliament staff and policymakers and the media

WPUK's involvement in the project was signalled in Professor Todd's application for SPF funding. WPUK was used to forge relationships with policymakers, in keeping with the purpose of the award.

Please note that the University did not provide funding for the Liberation 2020 Conference. It was WPUK's decision to use part of their income from the consultancy to support the conference.

Please find attached: (1) Professor Todd's application for SPF funding; (2) the award letter relating to Professor Todd's application; (3) the invoice for the payment to WPUK; and (4) an email detailing the work WPUK carried out in relation to the project.

We have redacted from the enclosed documents the names of staff, or any other information that might identify them, where we consider this information to be exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Section 40(2) provides an exemption from disclosure for information that is the personal data of an individual other than the requester, where disclosure would breach any of the data

protection principles in Article 5 of the GDPR. We consider that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would be unfair to the individuals concerned, because it would be contrary to their reasonable and legitimate expectations. As their level of responsibility is below that of head of department, they would not reasonably expect that information about them would be made public under the FOIA without their consent, except where it is already in the public domain. Consequently, there would be no lawful basis to disclose the information under Article 6.1(a) of the GDPR.

The exemption in section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test provided for in section 2(2)(b) of the FOIA. To the extent that the public interest is relevant in this case, the University considers it is satisfied by the attached information and that the disclosure of names or other identifying information is not necessary to meet a legitimate public interest that would outweigh the rights of the individuals involved.

We have also redacted details of WPUK's bank account from the invoice. This information is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA, as its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime by enabling the account to be used for criminal purposes. A disclosure of information under FOIA is presumed to be a disclosure to the world at large. The exemption in section 31(1)(a) is subject to the public interest test in section 2(2)(b). We do not believe that there is any public interest in disclosing the details of WPUK's bank account to the public, whereas there is a public interest in preventing crime.

Item 2: We do not hold the information requested in specific reference to the research project on 'Women and Equalities Law: Historical Perspectives on Present Issues'. However, we understand it is the intention of Research England to complete an [Equality Impact Assessment](#) of its Quality-related Research Funding. You may wish to contact Research England for further information.

INTERNAL REVIEW

You may request an internal review of this response by e-mailing foi@admin.ox.ac.uk. A request for internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days from the date of this letter.

THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

If, after the internal review, you are still dissatisfied, you have the right under FOIA to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether your request has been dealt with in accordance with the FOIA. You can do this online using the [Information Commissioner's complaints portal](#).

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team