



Ref. FOI/20210604/2

01 July 2021

Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act	
Your ref	Email of 4 June 2021
Request	Please can you provide any electronic communications from the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China since December 2019 including documents received.

Dear Mr Miller

I write in reply to your email of 4 June, requesting the above information.

We will not comply with the request, as we estimate that the time required to determine whether this information is held, and, if so, to locate, retrieve and extract it, would exceed the maximum amount of time a public authority is required to spend on a single request, namely, 18 hours. There are many departments across the University which may have had correspondence with the Wuhan Institute of Virology and which may have referred to it. In addition, there are over 39 members of staff at the Wuhan Institute of Virology who might have corresponded with staff at the University. Therefore, collating a copy of all correspondence received from the Institute would necessitate surveying each of these departments, and the individual academics within those departments.

For this reason, we are refusing your request under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 12 allows a public authority to refuse a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with it would exceed the 'appropriate limit' prescribed in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the 'Regulations'). The appropriate limit for universities is £450, which, because the Regulations fix staff costs at £25 an hour, corresponds to a time limit of 18 hours or just over two working days.

The University is mindful of its obligation under section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance. In this instance, we consider that it might be possible to provide this information in relation to specific academic staff. If you would like to submit a new request, specifying the individuals you would like us to include, please feel free to contact us. Further information on the composition of the Medical Sciences Division is here: <https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/departments/units>

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