



Dr George Oppitz-Trotman
By email

Reference: FOI-2013-375

13 December 2013

Dear Dr Oppitz-Trotman,

Your request was received on 17 November 2013 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

"I am requesting that you provide me with the following documents, for the period 01/09/2012-17/11/2013:

1) any and all correspondence with the Cambridgeshire constabulary (aka 'Cambridgeshire police') or any of its officers, in which the political activities of the university's undergraduate or postgraduate students is substantially discussed. By 'political activities' I include especially: the planning or execution of protests or direct action; the co-ordination of campaigns against government policy. However, I do not exclude anything else which might normally be assumed to fall under the rubric 'political activities'.

2) any and all correspondence with the the Cambridgeshire constabulary (aka 'Cambridgeshire police') or any of its officers, in which the activities of the University and College Union is substantially discussed. By 'activities' I include in particular: the planning or execution of strikes.

3) any and all correspondence with the Cambridgeshire constabulary (aka 'Cambridgeshire police') or any of its officers, in which the possibility of recruiting informers from the University's undergraduate or postgraduate cohorts is discussed at all.

I use the phrase 'substantially discussed' in (1) and (2) because I realize that the request might become too expensive if the contents of all such correspondence is sifted. If you do not consider this too expensive under the terms of the Act, for example if there is only limited total correspondence with the Cambridgeshire police, then this process should be undertaken.

However, if you do consider it too expensive, for example if correspondence with the Cambridgeshire police was very regular during this time period, then simply supply all correspondence in which the relevant activities are the chief subject(s) under discussion.

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Should the total work involved in responding to this request be deemed too expensive under the terms of the Act, eliminate elements of the request in this order - (2); (1). If you eliminate both and still consider (3) to be too expensive, please supply detailed justification of this reasoning by a qualified person as defined under the terms of the Act.

If any of the information requested is protected by the Data Protection Act 1998, or by other relevant laws or regulations, including those exclusions specified by the Act, please supply the documents with appropriate redactions. If this should still be insufficient to meet your obligations under the DPA and other legal regulations, please supply the date/time of each item of correspondence that would ordinarily have been supplied were such restrictions not in place."

Notwithstanding the University's substantive response below, I start by pointing out: (a) that the Information Commissioner's latest guidance states that the appropriate limit applies to a request as a whole and that a public authority is not obliged to carry out work 'up to' this limit, as the wording of your request suggests; (b) that the engagement of the exemption at section 12(1) does not require the opinion of the qualified person under the Act, as his or her role is limited to the application of section 36.

The University has conducted searches of correspondence between the University Security Office and the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. No information is held to answer your question 3. Information held to answer your questions 1 and 2 is attached. Each email exchange has been numbered and each individual email has been labelled with its date/time and as being from 'Security to Police' (meaning from an individual at the University Security Office to an individual at the Cambridgeshire Constabulary) or vice versa.

Some text has been redacted either because it does not fall within the scope of your request or under the following exemptions:

(a) Section 40(2), because its release would breach the first data protection principle as set out in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998. It would be unfair to the relevant individuals to release their contact and other personal details into the public domain. This part of section 40 confers absolute exemption under the Act.

(b) Sections 31(1)(a) and 31(2)(i), because its release would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or would be likely to prejudice the University's ability to secure the health, safety and welfare of persons at work. As these are qualified exemptions, the University has considered whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Exchanges between the University and the police are designed to put appropriate resources in place to ensure that the law is not broken, and that there are no dangers to health and safety, during demonstrations on private or public property.

Releasing the correspondence on these matters in an unredacted form would enable members of the public to organise their activities with knowledge of the likely security/police presence and operational plans. While the level of prejudice is likely to be small when the activities are carried out by University students or staff, the same information could be of interest to violent or extremist groups and could be used in such a way that public order, the rule of law, and the health and safety of University staff is likely to be severely threatened. The University considers that the likelihood of this prejudice outweighs the legitimate public interest in the nature of its relations with the police, and that the disclosure of the correspondence in its redacted form in any case suffices to meet that interest.



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Registrary's Office

Please note that the attached documentation should not be copied, reproduced or used except in accordance with the law of copyright.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of this decision, you should write to Dr Kirsty Allen, Head of the Registrary's Office, quoting the reference above, at The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1TN or send an email marked for her attention to foi@admin.cam.ac.uk. The University would normally expect to receive your request for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter and reserves the right not to review a decision where there has been undue delay in raising a complaint. If you are not content with the outcome of your review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (<http://www.ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

James Knapton

Email exchange 1

Security to Police 13/9/12 11.07

[REDACTED]

The visit by Clegg to the Hauser Forum appears to be a 'red herring' and as far as I can ascertain is not taking place. In respect of Ed Balls I have the following:

Ed Balls will be arriving at Cambridge station at 4.30pm [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I'm told they'll leave by 6pm where there'll probably be a media interview somewhere (I don't think it will be at the Hauser), before they go off to the CBI dinner at Duxford.

I will have someone from University Security in the general area just in case a quick response is needed for any reason - although I think the likelihood is low.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Security to Police 12/9/12 17.33

[REDACTED]

Infuriatingly, I have just received information from the our Estates Facilities Management office that an organisation apparently called 'Cambridge Network' have arranged for both Nick Clegg and Ed Balls to be at the Hauser Forum at differing times tomorrow. The Hauser Forum is a multi-purpose/multi-occupied University building on the West Cambridge site, where space is often rented out to organisations both internal and external to the University. The only details that I have at the moment are that Clegg is visiting sometime mid-morning to early afternoon and Balls will be there late afternoon/early evening. I am trying to get an organisers name and further details, but I am unlikely to get anything more on the event(s) tonight.

I suppose the saving grace is that knowledge of Clegg's visit to the premises will probably be limited and therefore less likely to receive adverse attention. I haven't got any further with Robinson College at the moment so I don't know whether this is an additional venue or a change. When I get something more I will let you know.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Police to Security 11/9/12 20.26

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this its much appreciated.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Security to Police 11/9/12 09.08

[REDACTED]

Thank you. I have not been asked for assistance by the College, but will check with the Head Porter [REDACTED] I have heard nothing untoward about the visit from the University side so far and will keep my ear to the ground.

Best regards

Police to Security 11/9/12 08.56

Morning [REDACTED]

Some additional info.

My mistake on the location of the visit, Nick Clegg will be visiting Robinson College not the CRC (that was last time).

He will be arriving by train at 11.00.

Will let you know more later.

[REDACTED]

Police to Security 11/9/12 08.00

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you're well.

We've just been notified that Nick Clegg will be visiting CRC on Thursday. Just wanted to keep you in the loop, don't know details of the visit as yet or whether anything will directly impact yourselves.

We are expecting some anti_education cuts protesters, can you let me know if you hear anything on the Uni grapevine.

[REDACTED]

Email exchange 2

Police to Security 25/11/12 20.59

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HI – I've been a bit busy of late..

[REDACTED] Would you be able to speak with your contact there asap and assist in organising the room for Wednesday please?.. We'd like to be able to get in there from about 0945 onwards..

If it would be easier for you to give me the contact details after and then for myself to arrange direct I'd be happy with that..

[REDACTED]

Any issues or a call.. [REDACTED]

Thanks, [REDACTED]

Email exchange 3

Security to Police 29/11/12 08.48


Please find below open letter for your information.



Quote:

Please sign this open letter

'URGENT Open letter: Withdraw invitation of fascist Kevin Scott to speak at Cambridge Union Society TOMORROW (Thurs 29 November)'

We are appalled by the decision of The Cambridge Union Society to invite Kevin Scott, a former regional organiser of the British National Party (BNP), to their debate taking place tomorrow on the theme of hate speech.

We call upon the Cambridge Union Society to withdraw Kevin Scott's invitation to speak at the Cambridge University without delay.

For 20 years Kevin Scott was a member of the BNP, a fascist organisation which stands for an "all white Britain", a goal which can only be achieved by violence, the annihilation of entire groups of people and the ending of democracy.

Kevin Scott is now one of the management team for the newly formed British Democratic Party (BDP) set up by fascist Andrew Brons the MEP for Yorkshire and Humber who resigned from the BNP earlier this year to set up the BDP.

The Cambridge Union Society boasts about its "historic defence of free speech and ongoing belief in participatory democracy" and further outlines their commitment "to making our society as inclusive as possible."

Yet fascists stand for the elimination of the democracy and all freedoms that the Cambridge Union Society claims to support.

We should always remember that the millions of people who died at the hands of the Nazis slaughter – in the gas chambers and the concentration camps – did not die because their debating skills or arguments were not powerful enough. They died because once fascism had abused the democratic system to get its grip on power it soon closed down any freedoms to prevent any resistance. That is why we must never give a platform to fascists anywhere in the student movement.

If the increase in fascist activity on our campuses is allowed to continue the result will be to strengthen and embolden fascist organisations whose goal is to seize power in order to violently attack Jewish, Muslim, Black, LGBT, women, disabled and other communities.

We the undersigned demand that the Cambridge Union Society withdraw its invitation to fascist Kevin Scott immediately.

Email exchange 4

Security to Police 7/2/13 11.51

[REDACTED]

I will do.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Police to Security 7/2/13 09.50

Morning,

On 19th February Marine Le Pen (French RW politician) will be speaking at the Cambridge Union at 15:00hrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Can you let me know if anything comes to your attention from the University side of things.

Kind Regards,

Email exchange 5

Security to Police 22/2/13 13.35

Dear 

The following extract from a CUSU web-notice has been published this morning – it has also been shown on CDE web-based entries. Can I draw your attention to last sentence, which is the first that I have heard about their intention to meet at Gt. St Mary's and which may lead to a clash with the RAG event - Not very helpful I'm afraid.

"Last but certainly not least, CUSU will be joining the counter-protest to the EDL demo taking place this Saturday. At CUSU Council a motion was passed which shows CUSU's condemnation of the EDL's demonstration in Cambridge, and restates our belief that students should be able to pursue their studies and daily activities without fear of harassment or racial targeting, and that we must stand together against those who advocate such divisive, discriminatory views. Students will be meeting outside Great St. Mary's Church at 11am to join the main protest for 12pm - see the details and link to the Facebook event below".

Best regards


Email exchange 6

Security to Police 31/5/13 13.24

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] All I have is that any CDE members should join UAF

colleagues at the Love Music Hate Racism stall at Strawberry Fair at 11am, where they will do a mass leaflet and also assess the need to go into the city centre. I have no idea of possible numbers etc. Unless we get further information to suggest that University premises are at risk then I am proposing to do nothing more than ensuring that my duty staff maintain vigilance and report anything of interest at the time.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Email exchange 7

Security to Police 24/10/13.12.58

H [REDACTED]

Thanks for the info. I haven't heard anything from the student point of view for this visit, but I will pass on to our control room just in case we pick anything up. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Police to Security 24/10/13 09.41

Good Morning,

Nick Clegg is visiting Cambridge tomorrow and one of the venues which affects us is Gonville. I have spoken with [REDACTED] and this is a private event etc & the doors will be closed to the public. He doesn't foresee any issues. Have you heard anything to suggest any issues?

[REDACTED]

Email exchange 8

Security to Police 30/10/13 10.46

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Now that CUSU have published a statement of support I would anticipate a reasonable number of students to turn up and I am given to understand it is their intention, as well as attending the Union picket lines (at the six sites advertised by the Unions) the student group will meet at the Sidgwick site for a rally sometime just after 11am and then move to join the Union rally at Gt. St. Mary's at 12noon. It appear [REDACTED] that members of Cambridge Defend Education appear to be leading on this – which is something I would expect given their previous history of protest. If I get anything further I will pass it on.

[REDACTED]

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Security to Police 28/10/13 12.40

Dear [REDACTED]

On the last occasion, which [REDACTED] was a couple of years ago, Union action included a march around the town centre and a rally outside of Great St. Mary's which drew 200 – 300 people. We had no problems as such, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If I get to hear any more I will let you know. I have also now been asked to assist with staffing for the VIP visits taking place on the same day [REDACTED]

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Police to Security 27/10/13 22.52

Thanks for this [REDACTED]

Forgive my ignorance – how recently have we had similar such activity, and did it cause any problems either for the University or for the police?

[REDACTED] has been in contact in relation to the planned activity but we are still firming up their intended numbers etc.

Let us know if there's anything you need from us.

With kind regards

[REDACTED]

Security to Police 24/10/13 14.14

Please find the attached Union press release for your information. [REDACTED]
members of Cambridge Defend Education CDE (mainly students) will be supporting these activities in some way. If I get any more I will let you know.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Email exchange 9

Security to Police 5/11/13 09.12

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On an associated matter please also see the above attachment, which is a copy of the Cambridge Defend Education [REDACTED] advertising student action for today at King's College commencing at 11.30am. I have no information to suggest that this will be anything other than a peaceful protest, but bearing in mind CDE's previous history in this emotive area other action by them cannot be ruled out. Neither can the possibility that both protests could end up in the King's Parade area at the same time.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Email exchange 10

Security to Police 5/11/13 17.38

Dear [REDACTED]
Can you please add my thanks for all of your assistance again today
Regards
[REDACTED]

Police to Security 5/11/13 17.07

Dear all,

After a day of loud and at times confrontational protests the last of the demonstrators have left the city centre.

At one stage they did make efforts to set light to an effigy of Lord Sainsbury however when it was pointed out that any damage to private property would be considered arson, they thought better of it. No offences were committed and there was no need for police to resort to enforcement powers to meet our operational objectives.

[REDACTED]

With kind regards
[REDACTED]