

Our Reference: FOI.2021.01.53

**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**

Legal Services

**Director (Interim)  
Mrs N Cárdenas Blanco  
Solicitor**

Miss Devonald  
What Do They Know

(By Email)

23 March 2021

Dear Miss Devonald

**Re: request for information under The Freedom of Information Act.**

Please accept our apologies for the late response to your request for information dated 26 January 2021. If you have any queries with regard to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note our statement in respect of Copyright, which is also attached.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask for an internal review. The University's Complaints and Appeals procedure is available at

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/governance/policies-regs/information/index.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team  
University of Birmingham

Encs

**Your request for information reads:**

*I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the University regarding Knowledge Exchange activities:*

- 1. What is the expenditure on KEF Staff salaries?*
- 2. How many staff members' role is directly linked to KEF? Has this number been increasing/decreasing?*
- 3. What type of activities do you report to KEF?*
- 4. What is the 'impact' of KEF activities? How do you quantify their 'impact'?*
- 5. What is the annual expenditure on tracking/reporting Knowledge Exchange activities?*
- 6. What is the annual expenditure on IT software relating to REF, TEF and KEF?*

**The University of Birmingham responds:**

The University of Birmingham is required to respond to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") if it holds the information being requested, unless it is appropriate to apply one of the limited exemptions set out in the Act.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic The University of Birmingham is adapting its usual approach to processing Freedom of Information requests in order to meet the unprecedented challenges we are all facing. Whilst some staff are able to work remotely, since 23 March 2020 they are concentrating on supporting teaching and learning for our students who have returned for the new academic year under challenging circumstances. We are mindful that information requests place some degree of demand on a public authority's resources in terms of costs and staff time and that for the foreseeable future the University must prioritise resources to other areas.

**1. What is the expenditure on KEF Staff salaries?**

Please see Refusal Notice 2 below which explains why no information is being supplied in response to this question.

**2. How many staff members' role is directly linked to KEF? Has this number been increasing/decreasing?**

5 or fewer members of staff work directly on the KEF, as part of the wider role on knowledge exchange. Please see Refusal Notice 2 below which explains why no additional information is being provided.

### **3. What type of activities do you report to KEF?**

The rules and activities to be reported on are set by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI):

<https://re.ukri.org/knowledge-exchange/knowledge-exchange-framework/>.

Please see Refusal Notice 1 which explains why you are being referred to the UKRI website.

### **4. What is the 'impact' of KEF activities? How do you quantify their 'impact'?**

The most comprehensive quantitative data set is provided by the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey:

<https://re.ukri.org/knowledge-exchange/the-he-bci-survey/>.

The University of Birmingham submits data to this exercise as do other HEIs.

Please see Refusal Notice 1 which explains why you are being referred to the UKRI website.

### **5. What is the annual expenditure on tracking/reporting Knowledge Exchange activities?**

The University does not record this information.

### **6. What is the annual expenditure on IT software relating to REF, TEF and KEF?**

The University does not have any IT systems specifically for TEF, REF or KEF. Therefore, this question does not apply.

## **Refusal Notice 1**

Reasons for non-disclosure

### **Section 21 – Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information reasonably accessible by other means**

The information you have requested is available to the public on the UKRI's website. Therefore, under Section 21 of the Act, the University has not provided you with this information even if there is a charge for obtaining that information from another source.

This is an absolute exemption.

More information is available on the Information Commissioner's Office's website.  
<https://ico.org.uk/>.

## Refusal Notice 2

Reasons for non-disclosure

### **Section 40 (2) – Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal Information**

The University is not required to provide information if by doing so a third party's personal information would be disclosed in contravention of one of the data protection principles set out in data protection law, in particular the (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) or the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance, the information you have requested is personal information relating to individuals who could be identified from the information, and it is not information which either they have consented to being placed in the public domain or which they would expect to be placed in the public domain.

The University believes that disclosure of the withheld information would contravene the data protection principles. Therefore, under Section 40(2) of the Act, the University has not provided you with the information you have requested. It is recommended good practice that numbers between 1 and 5 should not be disclosed.

This is an absolute exemption and there is no need to apply the public interest test.

More information about the exemption in this section of the Act is available on the Information Commissioner's Office's website <https://ico.org.uk/>.

## **The University of Birmingham**

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