



Ref. FOI/2018/December

21 January 2019

Reply to request for information under Freedom of Information of Act	
Your Ref	Email dated 23 December 2018
Address	WhatDoTheyKnow.com
Request	See Annex

Dear Mr Donner,

I write in reply to your emails dated 23 December 2018, submitting two requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), as shown at the Annex.

We will not comply with your requests in their current form, as we estimate that the time required to determine whether the requested 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.

Whilst some parts of your requests are specific and clearly defined, others are broad in nature, and likely to cover large amounts of information. For example:

- In addition to research grants and donations from the companies concerned, you have asked for details of the University's 'financial relationship' with those companies, which would include any relationship that we might have with them as suppliers. This would be particularly relevant to Request 2 relating to energy companies.
- In addition to the companies that you have named, you have asked for information relating to 'other arms providers' in Request 1 and 'other companies involved in oil and gas energy exploration and extraction' in Request 2. Our research grant and donation information system does not classify organisations according to their economic sector/area of industrial activity and we would therefore have no means of identifying 'other arms providers' or 'other companies involved in oil and gas energy exploration and extraction'.
- In Request 2, you have asked whether any external bodies are involved or participating in the research contracts/project. Again, such information would not be held centrally, and it would be necessary to consult individual departments in relation to that aspect of your request. The University has around 100 academic departments, sub-departments, research institutes and research centres. A full list is: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/departments-a-z> Research is often undertaken in collaboration with other higher education institutions, and it is likely therefore that departments would hold information relevant to this part of your request.
- In Request 1, you have asked for information regarding 'contracts and relationships the University holds with other governments abroad'. There is no central record of all relationships that the University has with overseas governments, and it would therefore be necessary to collect this information from individual departments. In addition to the University's academic departments and research institutes, as referenced above, there are libraries, museums and service departments that may have



relationships with overseas governments. A full list is given here:
https://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/about_the_university/services.az?wssl=1

We are therefore refusing your requests under section 12 of the FOIA. Section 12 of the FOIA 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. The appropriate limit for Universities is £450, which corresponds to a time limit of 18 hours or just over two working days, because the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the 'Regulations') fix staff costs at £25 an hour.

We estimate that each request by itself would exceed the appropriate limit. However, even if the individual estimates were incorrect, the appropriate limit would still be exceeded if the two requests were aggregated. Section 12(4) of the FOIA, read together with Regulation 5 of the Regulations, allows a public authority to aggregate two or more requests seeking the same or similar information where the requests are made by the same person and received within 60 consecutive working days of each other. Both requests seek information regarding research grants, donations and other financial relationships with companies of a certain type and with overseas governments.

The University is mindful of its obligation under section 16 of the FOIA to provide advice and assistance. If you wish to pursue your requests, you will need to narrow their scope. It should be possible for us to respond within the appropriate limit if you were to limit each request to any research grants and donations provided by the specified companies.

INTERNAL REVIEW

If you are dissatisfied with this reply, you may ask the University to review it, by writing to the Head of Information Compliance at the following address:

University Offices
Wellington Square
Oxford
OX1 2JD

Alternatively, you may request a review by e-mailing foi@admin.ox.ac.uk.

THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

If, after the internal review, you remain 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. The Information Commissioner's address is:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

(Max Todd)
FOI OXFORD

Request 1

I write to request information regarding the research and financial relationships Oxford University has with the following companies: Lockheed Martin, Rolls-Royce, Boeing, General Dynamics, Airbus, BAE Systems, QinetiQ, GKN, Cobham, Elbit Systems, Leonardo, United Technologies, L3 Technologies, Babcock International, Northrop Grumman, Serco, Raytheon, Meggitt, Thales, AirTanker, Ultra Electronics, Chemring and other arms providers.

In addition, I write to request information regarding the contracts and other relationships the university holds with the Ministry of Defence.

I also write to request information regarding the contracts and relationships the university holds with other governments abroad.

Please include the following information:

1. For each of the above companies/bodies please list all projects, industrial research and industrial consultancy that the university has received funding for over the past five academic years, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and any information regarding the present academic year thus far, 2018-19.

Please also include donations from any of the aforementioned companies/bodies.

Please ensure that details are broken down into university department, showing the company or government body that provided the funding, the start and end date of the contract/project, the title of the project/research/donation and the total funding of each contract/project year-by-year for the past five academic years and the current ongoing academic year.

Please also show any external bodies involved or participating in the contract/project in question.

2. Does the university have - or is it working toward - an ethical research policy that specifically excludes the companies listed?

Request 2

I write to request information regarding the research and financial relationships Oxford University has with the following companies: Exxon Mobil, Petro China, Chevron, Total SA, Sinopec, Royal Dutch Shell, Gazprom, Rosneft, Reliance Industries, LukOil, Saudi Aramco, China National Petroleum Corporation, Kuwait Petroleum Company, BP, Eni, Valero Energy, Engie, Marathon Petroleum and other companies involved in oil and gas energy exploration and extraction.

Please include the following information:

1. For each of the above companies/bodies please list all projects, industrial research and industrial consultancy that the university has received funding for over the past five academic years, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and any information regarding the present academic year thus far, 2018-19.

Please also include donations from any of the aforementioned companies/bodies.

Please ensure that details are broken down into university department, showing the company that provided the funding, the start and end date of the contract/project, the title of the project/research/donation and the total funding of each contract/project year-by-year for the past five academic years and the current ongoing academic year.



Please also show any external bodies involved or participating in the contract/project in question.

2. Does the university have - or is it working toward - an ethical research policy that specifically excludes companies which have failed to achieve their green energy goals?