

Younus Rahmen
By email: request-783995-5e715c6c@whatdotheyknow.com

8 November 2021

Dear Younus Rahmen,

G00633: Freedom of Information Review

I refer to your request for a review dated 05/10/2021 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"), wherein you requested a review of the University's response to an FOI request made on the 20TH August 2021. A copy of the original request and the University's response are set out [here](#).

My review has considered whether the University correctly answered your freedom of information request under the Act, and I have partially upheld the points raised in your request for review for the reasons set out below.

The University's first obligation under the Act, is to advise you whether the University holds the information specified in your request. Following this review, I conclude that the University correctly stated it held the information requested.

Our refusal notice did comply with section 17(1)(b), as the University clearly stated the exemptions used in the refusal notice and under section 16 of the Act, we provided you with further advice and assistance.

Under section 10(1) of the Act, the University is under an obligation to respond to FOI's within 20 working days. Whilst the University waited for you to respond to its request for clarification, the clock stopped. In addition, there was a bank holiday in August which meant that the University did in fact respond to your request within the statutory deadline and it was not due on the 14th September 2021 as you suggested and complained about on the 22nd September, but it was due on the 22nd September 2021. However, the University responded by way of providing a link to its answer and that link was unfortunately not working until the 30th September 2021 and so I find our response was therefore not accessible to you within the statutory timeframe.

In your review request on the 27th September you stated:

Dear University of Southampton,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of University of Southampton's handling of my FOI request 'Medicine Admission Statistics (A100)'.

I am appalled by the way this request has been handled. Firstly, the response to my request had been submitted late! Secondly, I cannot access the response as you had provided me with a local file and so it can only be accessed by your system.

Therefore, I would like a member of your team to thoroughly check the request I had submitted, ensuring all of my questions have been answered sufficiently, whilst also checking that I can access the response.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:
https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Frequest%2Fmedicine_admission_statistics_a1_24&data=04%7C01%7CL.Baldock%40soton.ac.uk%7C2df2b67533934afc9e5b08d98293883d%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0%7C0%7C637684392414138561%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=Eml32Ssdn1OBXRKlklkanFK35XovKyu%2Fd6BwJtbktA%3D&reserved=0

Yours faithfully,

Younus

On the 30th September 2021, the University responded to apologise that the original link provided was not working correctly and provided you with a working link.

On the 5th October 2021 still dissatisfied with the University's apology and a working link you stated:
Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of University of Southampton's handling of my FOI request 'Medicine Admission Statistics (A100)'.

I would like to continue with my request to review my FOI request. I had been able to access the link; however, I could not access any of the hyperlinks within the document due to your watermark - clearly showing that whoever responded to my review had not taken the initiative to see if everything is accessible.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:
https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Frequest%2Fmedicine_admission_statistics_a1_24&data=04%7C01%7Cfoi%40soton.ac.uk%7Cebcd46bd538a4e5f500808d987ddba72%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0%7C0%7C637690209218526158%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMz

liLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=Z7R9R0hbokYwmnws1EpwH0Ow2GzWQ10d1%2Bnx3TI6CRk%3D&reserved=0

Yours faithfully,

Younus

Given that you confirmed you could now access the University's response your complaint was more narrowly framed since the watermark added meant that the hyperlinks were not working. Most of the links are to sections of the Act which are not necessary for you to understand the University's position in the response provided and the links to UCAS, our webpages and back to the WDTK site are otherwise all working correctly and so your complaint is not upheld on these points.

If you are not content with the outcome of this internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements of [Part 1](#) of the Act.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Appleby

Vice-President Operations