

Toby Ibrahim
By email

Reference: FOI-2022-370

14 June 2022

Dear Mr Ibrahim,

Your request was received on 17 May 2022 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

Firstly, I would like to request the most recent Handbook available for the MPhil in Management course.

Secondly, I would like to also request a reading list for each of the modules in the MPhil in Management course.

This information is refused under section 43(1) of the Act as it constitutes a trade secret (within the meaning of this term in the Act) and under section 43(2) of the Act on the grounds that its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the University and/or individual academics by infringing the IP rights that they own in the information. These materials are protected under the copyright and intellectual property rights of the University and the individual academics involved in creating them. They are made available in specific ways to registered students on the course, with whom they are used under specific pedagogical conditions. As this is a qualified exemption, the University has considered whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The University is aware of the general arguments concerning transparency in its teaching and examination activities. However, the high degree of intellectual content in handbooks and reading lists, the extensive effort made by the individual academics to create them, and the need to maintain teaching standards and quality assurance in its courses through the dissemination of copyrighted materials at a time (and to the audience) of the University's choosing, are collectively considered to be decisive factors in favour of the maintenance of the exemption in this case.

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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 contact us quoting the reference number above. 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 (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Allwood