

**Information Compliance**  
Information Technology

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Ms Cathy Darling

Correspondence via e-mail to: [request-463361-cd10daa1@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-463361-cd10daa1@whatdotheyknow.com)

5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Ms Darling,

**Freedom of Information Act Request 2018/039**

Thank you for your email dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 requesting information about City, University of London, made in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For ease of reference, your questions are reproduced below in bold followed by our responses.

**Which cost centre at City University of London holds the circa £16,000 per annum PhD studentship bursaries? What is the name of the individual responsible for this particular cost code and budget allocation?**

Our response:

We have withheld the information requested in reliance on Section 43 (2) (Commercial Interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We consider this information to be commercially sensitive and that disclosure may harm City's commercial interests. Section 43 (2) is a qualified exemption and so subject to the public interest test which follows. We recognise that it is in the general public interest for City, University of London to publish as much information as possible about its financial affairs. This could increase public understanding and trust in City's decisions. However, the higher education sector is competitive in respect of attracting students, recruiting and retaining academic staff and developing new funding opportunities or revenue streams often in partnership with the private sector. We consider that disclosing actual cost centre which holds circa £16,000 per annum PhD studentship bursaries would harm our commercial and strategic interests. City, University of London must be able to protect commercially sensitive information where disclosure would allow its competitors to undermine its commercial interests. Having considered the public interest test, we feel that the general public interest is satisfied with the information published on our website at:

[www.city.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries](http://www.city.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries) Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information requested. However, please note, Student bursaries are issued by all Five Schools at City.

We have also withheld the name of the individual responsible for this particular cost code and budget allocation under section of Section 40 (2) of the Act. Information available under Data Protection Act 1998.

FOI exemption Section 40 (2) provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act 1998. Personal data of third parties can be disclosed only in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to disclose the information requested, members of staff would have had no expectation that their names and or budget responsibility details would be released into the public domain and to do so without their consent would be unfair and so unlawful under the first principle of the Data Protection Act.

If you are dissatisfied with the way your request for information has been managed, please contact the Director of Information Technology at:

By Post	Director of Information Technology City, University of London Northampton Square London EC1V 0HB
By Telephone	0207 040 4000
By Email	<a href="mailto:foi@city.ac.uk">foi@city.ac.uk</a>

Please do so in writing, describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction and include an address for correspondence.

If after contacting City, University of London you are still dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner:

By Post	Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF
By Telephone	01625 545700
Website	<a href="http://www.ico.org.uk/">www.ico.org.uk/</a>

Yours sincerely,

Saidu Sesay  
Information Compliance Officer