Dear Ben,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Our Ref: 353-18

I refer to your request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 received on 22 October, 2018. The information requested and the University's response are outlined below.

1. *Your Prevent action plan or any document that outlines your institution's Prevent policy in line with your obligations under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015*

    The University has a legal duty to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into Terrorism'. The University has worked to develop guidance, procedures and training to meet this duty, predicated on a safeguarding approach, which is the overarching ethos of the Government's Prevent strategy. The general thrust of 'Prevent' is in relation to students, and although students are the constituents of the University community most likely to be vulnerable to radicalisation, this is not explicit in the 'Prevent' provisions. The University has therefore elected to view its 'Prevent' duty in relation to both students and staff. More information about safeguarding and the Prevent duty, the University's response and training can be found at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/safeguarding-and-prevent

    In answer to this part of your enquiry, you are being supplied with the most relevant recorded information held by the University and as it is already publically available, section 25(1), *Information otherwise accessible* of the FOISA is applicable. The University has responsibilities to the taxpayer and other stakeholders to provide value for money. Where the University has expended resource to proactively make information available, the public interest is best served by referring an applicant to that alternative source. Please note that this exemption is absolute and does not require validation through application of the public interest test.

2. *Confirm if students, researchers and members of staff are obliged to register research which is deemed to be security sensitive*

    Ethical approval is required for all research projects involving human subjects, including those containing elements that may be considered as 'security sensitive'. That process by its very nature involves that such research activity is recorded.

    The University Teaching and Research Ethics Committee (UTREC) is currently updating policy guidance in this area (security sensitive research). The guidance will advise colleagues on the University's obligations under the legislation whilst at the same time protecting academic freedom to allow genuine research in this field to continue. It will also offer advice on safe storage of such material.

3. *If such a register exists, the number of entries for each of the years 2018 (up to the date of this request), 2017, 2016 and 2015. By entries, I mean occasions on which individuals have registered research which falls into the category set out in bullet point 2. If possible, please identify the nature of the research (eg PhD, internally funded, externally funded) and topic*

Calendar year	Total	PG/PGR	UG

2015	-	-	-
2016	21	21	-
2017	19	19	-
2018	34	33	1

It is not possible, from information captured via the ethical approval process, to establish whether research has an internal/externally funded element. To understand whether research attracted funding would involve a mapping exercise, which extends beyond the retrieval of information. Such an exercise would involve the creation of new information.

Similairly, 'topic' details are not recorded as part of the ethical approval process; determining what topic research could be attributed to will also involve the creation of new information – each ethical application would have to be assessed and a judgement made as to the nature/topic of that work.

For the reasons noted above, the University does not hold information concerning the funding and the topics of research which fall within the category of 'security sensitive.' Where a public authority does not hold information, it is required to issue a notice as per the requirements of FOISA, section 17(1). Please consider this part of the University's response to constitute such a notice.

4. *If such a register exists, confirm whether or not it is stored onsite or on an external server.*

This information is stored onsite i.e. within the University data centers.

5. *If such a register exists, confirm whether the register is subject to any information sharing agreements with external partners or agencies including local and regional Prevent coordinators, the Home Office, the local Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit, the local police or any other law enforcement agencies*

No such arrangements exist.

6. *A list of any agreements, arrangements or Memorandums of Understanding between your institution and bodies such as the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), or Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) of the City of London Police, to receive lists of illegal or illicit content, for instance for the purposes of blocking.*

The University is engaging the provisions provided by FOISA, section 18 and neither confirms nor denies whether the information requested, is held by the University. The University is of the view that if the information existed or was held, it would be exempt from release by virtue of section 30(c), *Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs* of the FOISA.

Revealing whether the agreements/arrangements are in place or otherwise, would be harmful to the ability of the public authorities listed, to undertake their public tasks, which would be contrary to the public interest.

7. *Confirm if any filtering or blocking service that your institution uses incorporate lists from the IWF, CTIRU or PIPCU, and which lists are incorporated;*

The University does not make use of the services listed, above. On that basis no information is held with reference to your request. As required, the University now issues a notice to that effect, with reference to FOISA, section 17(1).

The University considers that web filtering is a form of censorship and contrary to the principle of academic freedom.

This is balanced against the University's strong Information and Communications Technology (ICT) regulations which provide the basis for disciplinary action to be taken in the event that unauthorised use of ICT facilities provided by the University is proven. The regulations governing the use of the University's ICT facilities can be found on our website at:
https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/library/documents/Regulations%20University%20ICT%20facilities.pdf .

<u>Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed</u>

If you are not satisfied with the University's response and/or our reasoning set-out above, you have the right to request a review of our decision. The time lines in which this right is available are set out in section 20(5)(a) and (b) FOISA. In broad terms the right to seek a review must be exercised within 40 working days of receiving this response.

Any request for review should be put in writing or some other permanent form e.g. an e-mail and should be sent to the University of St Andrews, through the contact details provided below.

A request for a Review should:

a) state your name and address;
b) describe the nature of your original request; and
c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response.

Freedom of Information / Environmental Information
University of St Andrews
Butts Wynd (Building)
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9AJ

Email foi@st-andrews.ac.uk
Telephone +44(0)1334 462776

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with following Review, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) for a decision. In the event of an appeal to the SIC, the Commissioner will generally only be able to investigate the matters raised in the request for review.

Details on how to make an appeal online to the SIC can be found on their website: http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx

Alternatively, you can contact the SIC by post, telephone or email at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle

Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

This concludes the University's response.

Yours sincerely

JUNE WEIR
Information Assurance and Governance Officer