



Mr N Davies

Response through Whatdotheyknow only

19 December 2017

Dear Mr Davies,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – 017-424 Internal Review

I write further to your request, received by us on 22nd November 2017, that we conduct an internal review into our response to your request for information dated 24th October 2017 (“**Request for Information**”). I note that your request for an internal review was actually submitted prior to us issuing our decision, which was dated 27th November 2017 (“**Initial Decision**”).

Your Request for Information was as follows:

Please provide a copy of your University’s response to the 2017 and 2014 UUK USS valuation consultations.

In our Initial Decision we notified you that we would not provide the requested information (“**Withheld Information**”) due to the exemption contained in section 36(2)(b)(i) and (ii) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The exemption relied upon provides as follows:

Section 36(2)

(2) Information to which this section applies is exempt information if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information under this Act—

...

(b) would, or would be likely to, inhibit—

(i) the free and frank provision of advice, or

(ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation”.

As requested by you, we have conducted an Internal Review of your Request for Information pursuant to our internal review procedure. The outcome of our Internal Review is as follows:

We maintain our decision not to provide the Withheld Information.

The reasons for our view are as follows:

It is important that organisations are permitted to solicit and receive full, free and frank input in the course of making decisions. Any risk that such opinions could be made public would or would likely inhibit, and have a chilling effect on, the willingness of individuals to provide such input.

In connection with section 36, we have taken into account the application of the public interest test. For the reasons set out in our Initial Decision, it is our view that the legitimate public interest in disclosure is outweighed by the strong and overriding public interest in maintaining confidentiality and not disclosing the requested information.

We have now reconsidered your Request for Information under our internal review procedure. Should you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner:

Information Commissioner's Office:
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone 01625 545700
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Rex Knight
Vice-Provost (Operations)
University College London
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT