



23 June 2022

By email to: request-866159-12d5380c@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Jenna Corderoy,

I refer to your Freedom of Information request received on 30 May 2022 about monitoring of social media posts and accounts.

Details of any exemptions applied are below. Where any information is “not held”, this is explained below. Those parts of the University’s response (together with the details of how to ask the University to review the management of your request, or thereafter to seek a review by the Scottish Information Commissioner, should you wish to do so – please see below) constitutes the notice in writing that the information specified is not held by the University which is required under section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (“FOISA”).

Your enquiry and the University’s response

I would like to request the following information:

(1) Please indicate whether the university is currently monitoring, or has previously monitored, students and staff’s social media posts/accounts.

The University does not routinely monitor staff or student social media posts/accounts. Where a complaint arises relating to social media activity it is possible that an account/posts may be checked as part of any investigation.

(2) If the university is currently monitoring, or has previously monitored, students and staff’s social media posts/accounts, could you please provide reasons as to why this is the case. Please also provide copies of policies or guidelines in relation to the monitoring of students and staff social media posts.

The University does not routinely monitor staff or student social media posts/accounts. We do not have any policy or guidelines relating to the monitoring of staff or student posts/accounts.

(3) If the university is currently monitoring, or has previously monitored, students and staff’s social media posts/accounts, could you please indicate whether this was in regards to (i) environmental protests (ii) rent strikes (iii) other protests or strike action.

We have not monitored any posts/accounts in relation to protests or strike action.

(4) If the university is currently monitoring, or has previously monitored, students and staff's social media posts/accounts, could you please state whether any specific software is used.

We do not use software to monitor staff or student posts/accounts.

(5) If the university is currently monitoring, or has previously monitored, students and staff's social media posts/accounts, could you please indicate whether this is carried out internally or that this function is outsourced. If it is outsourced, please provide details.

N/A

This concludes the University's response.

Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with our response or our reasoning set out above, you have 40 working days in which to require a review of our decision. Any such request should be put in writing and should be sent to the University Secretary, Abertay University, at the address provided below. The request should:

- (a) detail your request for a review of our decision to be undertaken
- (b) describe the nature of your original request
- (c) explain the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response

Interim Secretary to University Court
Abertay University
Bell Street
Dundee
DD1 1HG
Tel (01382) 308016

E-mail: P.Henry@abertay.ac.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with, you also have the right, in terms of section 47 of FOISA, and within 6 months, to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether we have handled your request properly.

Information relating to your right to seek review is available from the Scottish Information Commissioner's website:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info>

or by contacting the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Scottish Information Commissioner,
Kinburn Castle,
Doubledykes Road, St Andrews,
Fife KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info
Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info>

Or via the SIC's online appeals service:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

If you are unhappy with the Commissioner's decision, you also have the right to appeal further to the Court of Session, on a point of law only, under section 56 of FOISA. Please refer to the Commissioner's website (details above) for further information about your right of appeal to the Court of Session.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Processing

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