



Ref. FOI/20200716/4

13 August 2020

| Reply to request for information under the Freedom of Information Act | |
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| Your ref | Email of 16 July 2020 |
| Request | I write to request information regarding the use of water by the University on quadrangles and lawns. I request information on the amount of water (m cubed or litres) used by the University to water and care for quadrangles and lawns owned by colleges and universities for the past two financial years (2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019). Furthermore, I request to know the percentage of this water which was recycled grey water, or the result of rainwater harvesting infrastructure. |

Dear Kalli Dockrill,

I write in reply to your email of Thursday 16 July, requesting the above information.

The information provided in response to this request refers only to the main University; the colleges are separate legal entities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, please contact individual colleges directly for further information about their own water usage. You can find a list of college websites on the front page of the University website.

The University does not water its lawns at the University Parks. We do not have the irrigation capacity to do so and we regard it as environmentally wasteful.

However, we do have an 80 cubic metre rain water tank which harvests rain water from the Glasshouse roofs. This was retro-fitted by the University at a cost of approximately £40,000 some years ago and provides the vast majority of our horticultural water needs for our plant collections.

Grass pitches are generally only watered after renovation and reseeding (which is usually around August) to enable seed germination and grass growth. We only water the exact pitch area and there is no inherent run off, with the vast majority of the water being used by the grass to grow or lost through evaporation. Any minor seepage into grass areas surrounds (all our pitches are within bigger grass areas) is just water, and the local grass benefits in the summer months.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Team