

**Mr John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer

25 September 2017

Ref: FOI/September 2017/ Sadhvi Sharma

By email to [fsur@spiked-online.com](mailto:fsur@spiked-online.com)

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Dear Ms Sharma

Your request for information received on 9 September 2017 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I am conducting research into Middlesex University for the 2017/18 Free Speech University Rankings (FSUR).

Founded by the online magazine spiked, in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust and Policy Exchange, the FSUR is the UK's first university league table for free speech. We launched in February 2015, attaining national coverage in the *Guardian*, the *Independent* and the *Times Higher Education*, and more.

The results of the 2018 survey, which this request relates to, will be published, on the FSUR hub, in February 2018.

In order to arrive at our assessment, we evaluate the policies of universities and students' unions in order to assess their intellectual openness.

Under this FOI, I am requesting copies or links to any of the following documents so that we can properly assess your institution:

- External Speakers Policy (AKA Free Speech Policy, Speaker Vetting Policy, Students Event Policy)
- Constitutional documents (governance, statutes, a written constitution)
- Dignity at Work and Study (as relating to students, rather than staff)
- Equal Opportunities policy (as relating to students, rather than staff)

- Bullying and Harassment policy (as relating to students, rather than staff and including any specific policy on race/gender/sexuality etc.)
- Internet/Social Media Policy (any policies relating to students' use of IT communications)
- University byelaws (relating to students)
- Student handbook (or any other guide for students on conduct)
- Leaflet and Poster Policy (AKA Marketing Policies, relating to student-made posters, leaflets and literature being distributed on campus)
- Prevent Policy or any other document relating to the Prevent Strategy (as relating to students, rather than staff)
- Any other university policy that may have an effect on speech, such as those prohibiting racist or homophobic speech, equality policies that may restrict or control students' speech.

### **University Response**

Free Speech Policy - also known as a 'Code of Practice on Free Speech' (labelled as freedom of speech on the webpage) that outlines the university's obligations to uphold free speech. This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. This may be located on the University's website at the following link: <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/public-policy-statements>

University Constitution - any ordinances, articles of association or articles of governance. This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. This may be located on the University's website at <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/charity-information>

Dignity at Work and Study Policy - with regard to students – information not held.

Equal Opportunities policy (as relating to students, rather than staff) – information not held

Bullying and Harassment policy (as relating to students, rather than staff and including any specific policy on race/gender/sexuality etc.) – we do not have a specific Policy but guidance is available to students at the following location: <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/your-support-services/bullying-and-harassment>

Internet/Social Media policies- rules students must follow when using the internet and social media – This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. This may be located on the University's student website at <https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/your-study/library-and-it-support/it-support>

University byelaws (relating to students). This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. This may be located on the University's student website at <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/your-middlesex/university-regulations-and-policies>

Student handbook (or any other guide for students on conduct). This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. This may be located on the University's student website at <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/your-middlesex/university-regulations-and-policies>

Leafleting/marketing policies - any policy concerning students distributing leaflets or any form of literature on campus – information not held.

Prevent Policy or any other document relating to the Prevent Strategy (as relating to students, rather than staff) – Any issues or concerns relating to Prevent are managed as part of the University's overarching Cause for Concern Procedure. This may be located on the University's student website at <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/your-support-services/cause-for-concern-procedure>

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have such a complaint, you may contact Mrs Teresa Kelly, Clerk to the Board of Governors, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 6018, [t.kelly@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:t.kelly@mdx.ac.uk) within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

**John Gilchrist**  
Freedom of Information Officer