

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

12 April 2018

Ref: FOI/March 2018/ Steve Carufel

By email to datacarvel@gmail.com

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Dear Mr Carufel

Your request for information received on 15 March 2018 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

This is an information request under the Freedom of Information Act of 2000.

I would like to be provided with the following information about academic/scientific journals specifically. For the latest ten financial or calendar years available:

#1 - How much the institution has been spending annually for all of its subscribed online access to academic journals for each publisher the institution has any academic journal subscription with? Per year?

#2 - How much the institution has been spending annually for each individually-subscribed journal ("à la carte", not part of a bundle package)? What are these journals (their title?) and how much were they each year?

#3 - What is the number of successful full-text article requests for each subscribed journal (and its title) for each of the latest ten financial or calendar years? Note: I would like the data as well even if a given journal was not part of the university's academic journal subscriptions at some point during that decade, either because of a subscription that happened later or because of the cancellation of a subscription. If so, please indicate it clearly for the year for which it applies (for instance, with an "X", "Not subscribed", etc.).

University Response

#1 We do not record our spend on electronic journals separately from subscriptions to electronic databases so are unable to provide a breakdown as requested.

#2 We are writing to advise you that it has been necessary to refuse this part of the request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

We estimate that compliance with your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit established by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this is currently set at £450 (or 18 hours work) by virtue of the [1] Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. Our estimate has considered the time it would take to determine whether we hold the information and then to locate, retrieve and extract it. We estimate that to determine whether we hold the requested information, and then to locate, retrieve, and extract that information would take longer than 18 hours to complete.

#3 We have no records for this for each subscribed journals but are able to provide consolidated data from the Sconul returns as follows:

| Institution title | YEAR | Full text article requests |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Middlesex University | 2015 - 2016 | 1168552 |
| Middlesex University | 2014 - 2015 | 1285002 |
| Middlesex University | 2013 - 2014 | 1265455 |
| Middlesex University | 2012 - 2013 | 1077026 |
| Middlesex University | 2011 - 2012 | Data not collected |
| Middlesex University | 2010 - 2011 | Data not collected |
| Middlesex University | 2009 - 2010 | 712630 |
| Middlesex University | 2008 - 2009 | 405894 |
| Middlesex University | 2007 - 2008 | 332028 |

This is mainly due to the fact that we would be required to collated all the publishers and then the individual journals themselves to produce a specific spend and then aggregate this all together. This would take at least 60 hours at a conservative estimate, so well above the 18 hour threshold. So in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, (the Act), this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

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 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