

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

10 April 2018

Ref: FOI/March 2018/ Brad Blitz

By email to B.Blitz@mdx.ac.uk

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Dear Prof Blitz

Your request for information received on 8 March 2018 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

With respect to the construction of the campus in Mauritius, in particular, would you please advise:

- 1) Did the University solicit a Modern Slavery statement from BPR architects?
- 2) Would you please provide me with a copy of their statement?
- 3) Did the University solicit a Modern Slavery statement from Taktik architects?
- 4) Would you please provide me with a copy of their statement?
- 5) Did the University solicit a Modern Slavery statement from Middlesex University's joint venture partner Medine Ltd?
- 6) Would you please provide me with a copy of their statement?

Regarding the construction of the campus in Mauritius, did the University at any point in the procurement process specifically ask Medine Ltd. about modern slavery practices in their supply chain, including the use of forced or bonded labour?

What assurances did the University seek?

University Response

- 1) Yes
- 2) BPR Architects' turnover is less than £36M so they are not required by the Act to produce a statement.
- 3) This company is not on the University's supplier database so there is no evidence that they have been engaged in relation to the construction of the campus in Mauritius.
- 4) See above.
- 5) We did not request a Modern Slavery statement from Medine and there is no reference to Modern Slavery in the Joint Venture agreement. The first reason is that the agreement predates the University's awareness of Modern Slavery as a separate issue requiring specific provision. The second reason is that Medine operates as a Joint Venture partner and investor which means that the arrangements did not follow a standard procurement process. Instead the appropriate governance was carried out around due diligence on Medine as a partner with board approval for the commitment to a Joint Venture.
- 6) See above.

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
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