

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

19 October 2017

Ref: FOI/October 2017/ David Roberts

By email to davidroberts1998@hotmail.com

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Dear Mr Roberts

Your request for information received on 4 October 2017 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

I am trying to understand the number of suppliers the University purchases from so please can you send me a list of all suppliers you purchase goods or services from and the annual value you bought from them in your last financial year. Many thanks

Please note this information is not commercially sensitive as all you will be giving me is the total money spent with each supplier not any detail of what you bought.

University Response

Whilst we hold the information you have requested 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.

This is mainly due to the fact that we had circa 3,000 individual suppliers to the University during the last financial year. To check if each supplier considers our total spend with them to be commercially sensitive as per the definition in section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would take at least 1 hour per supplier. That is 3,000 hours to complete 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.

A limited number of the supplier details are also withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act which covers the personal data of third parties where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act. It would not be fair to the data subject to disclose their personal data and so the University considers the information to be exempt from disclosure.

However, if you are able to narrow the scope of your request we may be in a position to provide the information we may be able to conduct further searches and provide the information you seek. I should point out that any reformulated request you may wish to make to the University will be treated as a new FOI request, and the 20 working day time limit will begin again.

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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