FOI Request – FOI2223/03/25
I refer to your Freedom of Information request received on 30 March 2023

Your Request
To whom it may concern,
In the below request the phrase the phrase ‘arms trade companies’ relates to, but not limited to:
1.BAE
2. Babcock
3. QinetiQ
4. Rolls-Royce
5. Serco
6. Cobham
7. Raytheon
8. Airbus
9. General Dynamics
10. Leonardo MW
11. Lockheed Martin
12. Thales
13. MBDA
14. Elbit Systems
15. Caterpillar
16. Ministry Of Defence
17. DSTL
18. Atomic Weapons establishment
19. GKN
20. Boeing

‘Academic partnership’ refers to ‘arms trade companies’ involvement of any of the following:

1. Graduate schemes/apprenticeships/Careers fair appearances
2. Directly sponsored PhDs or Studentships
3. Public donations - sponsored buildings/libraries etc
4. Company involvement in university departments - i.e. MoD Laboratories, EPSRC centres for doctoral research
5. Dual employment of staff/management or lecturers

Please may I request any information or appearance of arms trade companies in the aforementioned capacities in the past five years.

When referring to option 1., 2., or 3., or 4., please may you provide the value:

- Of the donation
- Of the studentship
- Of Graduate schemes/apprenticeships/careers fair appearances
- Of the funding for the department/research centres

When referring to option 3, 4. Or 5., please may you provide the:

- Name of the relevant university department or programme if applicable
- Name of building if applicable
- Name of the dual employed staff member if applicable

University's Response

Further to Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act") we confirm that the information requested is partially held by the University of Sunderland (the "University").

Graduate schemes/apprenticeships/Careers fair appearances

The University uses the TargetConnect platform to supply vacancies and opportunities to students and early graduates (via Target Link). The University will receive details of an opportunity to share with students and early graduates, however the relationship between the opportunity and the company is managed by TargetConnect. The University does not charge for supplying vacancies or opportunities to students and early graduates, and therefore no income is received.

The following companies advertise opportunities on Target Connect via Target Link, which are accessible to our students and early graduates:

- BAE
- Babcock
- Rolls-Royce
- Serco
- Airbus
- General Dynamics
- Leonardo MW
- Thales
- MBDA
- Caterpillar
- DSTL

Additionally, Caterpillar have attended Graduate Recruitment and Placement Fairs at the University, which no income is received for.

Directly sponsored PhDs or Studentships

Nil return

Public donations - sponsored buildings/libraries etc

Nil return, other than Caterpillar have sponsored a Graduation Prize at the University previously

Company involvement in university departments - i.e. MoD Laboratories, EPSRC centres for doctoral research

Nil return

Dual employment of staff/management or lecturers

The University is unable to provide a conclusive response to this question.

The University can confirm there are no staff formally recorded as having dual employment. There are no arrangements in place where the University would work in partnership with another company to employ someone.

However, some staff, e.g. part-time, Academic Tutors, Casual Workers etc, will likely have another form of employment. The University does not capture that data. In the event any of these other forms of employment are relevant to your request, the University would not hold that information, and it would be entirely separate to their employment at the University.

If you have any further enquiries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing sunfoi@sunderland.ac.uk.

Kind regards,
Kate O’Neill
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