Our Reference: FOI.2023.04.167

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Legal Services

Director
Dr N Cárdenas Blanco
Solicitor

Millie Sullivan
Database Manager
dED - Demilitarise Education

(By Email)

14 July 2023

Dear Millie Sullivan

Re: request for information under The Freedom of Information Act.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information dated 24 April 2023. If you have any queries regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note our statement in respect of Copyright, which is also attached.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask for an internal review. The University's Complaints and Appeals procedure is available at
http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/governance/policies-regs/information/index.aspx

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University of Birmingham

Encs

Your request for information reads:

To whom it may concern,

In the below request the phrase the phrase 'arms trade companies' relates to, but not limited to:

BAE
Babcock
QinetiQ
Rolls-Royce
Serco
CobhamRaytheon
AirbusGeneral Dynamics
Leonardo MW
Lockheed Martin
Thales
MBDA
Elbit Systems
Caterpillar
Ministry Of Defence
DSTL
Atomic Weapons establishment
GKN
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

The University of Birmingham responds:

The University of Birmingham is required to respond to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") if it holds the information being requested, unless it is appropriate to apply one of the limited exemptions set out in the Act.

‘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**

Please see the Refusal Notice below which explains why the University is not providing any data in response to this request.

Refusal Notice

Reasons for non-disclosure

Section 12 – Freedom of Information - The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Having circulated your request to colleagues, it has been confirmed that the exemption in Section 12 of the Act applies as it will take more than 18 hours to

- Determine whether the University holds the information that you have requested;
- Find the requested information, or records containing the information;
- Retrieve the information or records; and
- Extract the requested information from records.

This is because the information you have requested is not held in one database from which the requested information can be easily extracted. To provide the requested information it would be necessary to interrogate the background documents to determine whether these are relevant to this request. It has been estimated that this will take in excess of 18 hours in total.

The University has considered whether it can suggest a way in which your request could be re-framed eg restrict the timeframe to the last financial year, and/or limit the number of individual funders, but does not believe that it would be able to process a revised request within 18 hours work.

None the less, if you would like to submit a reframed request limiting the timeframe and number of companies, the University would look at your new request, subject to any exemptions in the Act which might apply.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 12 of the Act and the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004, the University has not provided the information you have requested.

More information about this section of the Act is available on the Information Commissioner's Office's website. https://ico.org.uk/.

The University of Birmingham

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