Our Reference: FOI.2023.04.148

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Legal Services

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Dr N Cárdenas Blanco
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Millie Sullivan
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(By Email)

14 July 2023

Dear Ms 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 11 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:

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

1.BAE systems
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. MOD
17. DSTL
18. Atomic Weapons establishment
19. GKN
20. Boeing

In the below request, the phrase 'research project' related to, but not limited to: Any academic research collaborations that involve any staff members or any member of the active student body with companies or institutions who have stakes in the defence industry and arms trade companies.

Could you please provide me with all research projects with any connection to arms trade companies in the last five years. Connections can include sources of funding and/or collaborative research partnership on the research project.

Please can these be broken down by financial year, and categorise them accordingly:
• Title and aim of research project
• Players (list of companies involved in the research project)
• Name of university department(s) involved (if applicable)
• Source of funding for the research project (to be included the source of funding does not have to be an arms trade company)
• The total amount, in pounds sterling, that the university has received in research funding for this project in the last five financial years. Details should be broken down for this project year-by-year.
• Timescale of research project - start and end (exact day/month if applicable/available, otherwise by financial years)

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.

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 ane if so to extract the relevant data. 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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