Sent via email only: millie@ded1.co

7 September 2022

Our Reference: **FOI IRR0002177**

Dear Millie Sullivan,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Your Request

Thank you for your email requesting information about City, University of London ("City", "we", "us" or "our"), which was received by us on 10 August 2022 ("your Request").

Your Request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOIA 2000").

For ease of reference, your Request is reproduced below in **bold** followed by our response.

Your request:

"To whom it may concern,

In the below request the phrase 'ethical research policy or statement' refers to any commitment by the university to exclude any collaborative effort, working relations or financial gain from a research project or partnership that has any connection to arms trade companies.

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

Boeing
Lockhead Martin
Caterpillar
Airbus
Leonardo
Thales
Leidos
BAE Systems

Rolls Royce
GKN
Smiths Group
Cobham
VT Group
Honeywell
General Electrics
General Dynamics
Halliburton,
L3 Communications,
Northrop Grumman
Raytheon
Safran
Elbit Systems
Textron
Babcock International
Bechtel Corp.
ThyssenKrupp
Jacobs Engineering Group
Fluor Corp.
Aerojet Rocketdyne
Meggitt

Please may I request any ethical research policy or statement within the last five years. Please can these be broken down by year and categorise accordingly:

- **Year of policy/statement release**
- **Name of senior management or council or committee that wrote or signed off the statement**
- **List of individuals in the council or committee that overseas ethics of research partnerships**
- **Any statement/committment to exclude/avoid graduate schemes with arms trade companies (may not be in research policy)**

Many thanks,
Millie Sullivan

Millie Sullivan
Database Manager
dED - Demilitarise Education”

City's Response:

In response to the specific questions in your Request relating to research:

- City has not made any commitment to exclude any collaborative effort, working relations or financial gain from a research project or partnership that has any connection to so-called "arms trade companies" (as that phrase is defined in your Request). Doing so would severely limit the scope and impact of research being conducted by City's researchers, in particularly those based within City's School of Science and Technology (formerly our School of Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering), which maintains close links with a diverse range of industry partners. It should also be noted that many of the companies specified in your Request also participate in civilian industries as well as defence.
- City's Framework for Good Practice in Research was written in 2015 but has been in effect since then. Please find a copy accompanying this response. For the reasons given above, the Framework does not specifically mention nor prohibit research with partners with links to the arms or defence industries, but would apply equally to research undertaken in fields related to those industries, along with any others.
- The Framework was signed-off by Senate: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/governance/senate
- The Framework is implemented by the Senate Research Ethics Committee: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/governance/senate/senate-research-ethics-committee.

By way of additional context, researchers at City should follow the fundamental research ethics principles when preparing their research project as outlined in The Belmont Report. This means that City's staff and students conducting research must respect the following principles:

• Respect for persons - autonomy and protecting those with diminished autonomy

• Beneficence and non-maleficence

• Justice

• Informed consent

• Confidentiality and data protection

• Integrity

• Conflict of interest

For further information, please see: https://www.city.ac.uk/research/support/integrity-and-ethics/ethics/principles

City operates a system of delegated authority for obtaining research ethics approval. This applies to all research undertaken by staff and students (undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research), and all research carried out in the University or under the auspices of the University. High-risk applications are reviewed by the central coordinating body, Senate Research Ethics committee.

In general, Research Ethics Committees do not tell students and staff what are suitable topics of research or who are suitable partners. Instead, they support and guide those wishing to do research how to carry out the research ethically and with integrity.

In relation to the specific question in your Request relating to graduate schemes:

- City does not have a statement/commitment to exclude/avoid graduate schemes with so-called "arms trade companies", as doing so would inhibit the provision of a full student experience, particularly to students studying STEM subjects. Offering a full and valuable student experience is an essential element to the success of City as a higher education institution and is one of the key ways in which universities compete in a globally competitive market for higher education. Again, it should be noted that, as well as defence, many of the companies specified in your Request also participate in civilian industries.

Complaints

Please note that City has a formal complaints and internal review process.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your Request has been managed, please contact us in writing, describing your Request, explaining your grounds for dissatisfaction and including an address for correspondence to:

Information Assurance Team Leader
City, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB

By Telephone: 0207 040 4000
By Email: foi@city.ac.uk

Please note that any complaint and/or request for an internal review should be received by City within 40 working days of the date of this letter; City is not obliged to consider any complaint or request for an internal review that is received outside of this period.

If, after contacting City, you are still dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO):

By Post:
Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

By Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

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