



University of East Anglia

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[Redacted]

01 December 2017

Dear [Redacted]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_17-272)**

We have now considered your request of 06 November 2017 for information relating to Professor Joseph Mifsud and the London Academy of Diplomacy.

Our response is on pages 4-5 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

On this occasion, it is not possible to provide all the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm that the University does not hold information on a number of the elements of your request. Further information is on pages 4-5 of this letter.

Additionally, the Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemption to part of your request.

Exemption	Reason
s.43(2), Prejudice to commercial interests	Disclosure of information would, or would be likely, to prejudice the commercial interests of a person as defined by the Act

*Exemption explanation*

It is our belief that some of the requested information, specifically the information sought within question 4 of your request would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of UEA. Release of this information requested would be likely to compromise the University's ability to enter into future collaborative undertakings with commercial partners.

The expansion of the provision of UEA's services into new geographic areas and markets is undoubtedly a commercial activity and this activity is conducted within a highly competitive environment.

The requested information, in combination with other information publicly available, would reveal issues in our partnership with INTO University Partnerships (IUP) and nature of the dissolution of the UEA London Joint Venture. It is our view that both UEA and IUP have regarded, and continue to regard this information as commercially sensitive.

The release of the requested information would be likely to be commercially damaging to UEA in hampering its search for new commercial partnerships to fund and administer new initiatives. There is a likelihood that it would discourage other external bodies from seeking or entering into partnerships with UEA and would cause legitimate doubt to enter the minds of potential future partners regarding our ability or willingness to abide by contractual terms.

The application of this exemption requires an examination of the public interest in disclosure as opposed to that in non-disclosure. There is no doubt that there is a legitimate public interest in knowing the amount and way in which public time and effort are spent in this respect, both to further the transparency and accountability of public authority activities.

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We would counter that there is also a public interest in protecting the ability of institutions to compete on a level playing field. To disclose the requested information would prejudice this institution's competitive and commercial position, and it is difficult to see how this could be in the public interest. In addition, there is already information in the public domain regarding the closure of UEA London such as an [archived UEA press release](#)<sup>1</sup> giving the rationale for the closure and the closure was also noted in the [2014 QAA Thematic Review of London campuses report](#)<sup>2</sup> (see page 4).

We do not feel that the increase in information about this decision resulting from the release of the exempted information would justify the harm done to UEA's interests and that of the public interest in a strong higher education sector generally and therefore believe the public interest lies in withholding the requested information.

We hope this information will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website: [https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us), or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer  
Information Policy and Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/media-room/press-release-archive/-/asset\\_publisher/a2jEGMiFHPv/content/developments-at-uea-london](https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/media-room/press-release-archive/-/asset_publisher/a2jEGMiFHPv/content/developments-at-uea-london)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/London-campus-of-UK-universities.pdf>

## Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI\_17-272)

1) *On what date was Professor Joseph Mifsud appointed director of LAD? Who was on the hiring panel? Where was the post advertised? Please provide details of the job advert.*

### ***[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]***

UEA does not hold any information as to the date that Professor Mifsud was appointed director of the London Academy of Diplomacy (LAD). His appointment to this role was reported to UEA in November 2013. UEA also does not hold any information regarding who was on the hiring panel, where the post was advertised nor any details of the advertisement of the post.

LAD was an academic department within the INTO UEA (London campus) LLP, a joint venture between UEA and INTO University Partnerships (IUP). This LLP, a completely separate legal entity to UEA, undertook the recruitment and subsequent employment of Professor Mifsud.

2) *When did UEA stop recruiting students for LAD?*

### ***[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]***

See the response to question 1 above. UEA did not undertake the student recruitment for LAD as this was undertaken by INTO UEA (London campus) LLP, a completely separate legal entity.

3) *When did UEA cease teaching at LAD? Was Professor Mifsud involved in teaching those UEA students who remained at LAD after the decision to close in 2014 and the University of Stirling took over?*

### ***[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]***

In regards the cessation of teaching at LAD, please see the response to question 1 above. UEA did not deliver teaching for LAD. The courses were delivered solely by LAD, an academic department of the INTO UEA (London campus) LLP, a completely separate legal entity.

We have information to indicate that Professor Mifsud was involved in the teaching of UEA students subsequent to 2014.

UEA was the validating body for the courses delivered by LAD. Following the decision to close and cease validation in 2014, UEA honoured its obligations to students registered on courses and oversaw the quality and standards of their courses until all students had completed their studies. Professor Mifsud was involved in the teaching of these students through to the completion of their studies.

4) *Please provide all correspondence and communications between UEA and INTO in relation to the decision to close UEA's London campus.*

*I define correspondence and communications as including (but not limited to) the following:*

*Emails*

*Letters*

*Memos*

Briefings  
Research documents  
Press clippings  
Invitations  
Presentation slides  
Notes taken during telephone conversations

**[Information exempted pursuant to s.43(2), Freedom of Information Act]**

The requested information is exempted from release for the reasons noted in the above letter.

5) Did UEA do any analysis of the costs incurred by LAD before the decision to close? Please provide these. (More specifically, I would like to know how much LAD/the London campus cost UEA after any revenues raised by the venture are factored in).

**[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]**

UEA did not conduct any analysis of the costs incurred by LAD prior to the decision to withdraw from the INTO UEA (London campus) LLP joint venture.

The cost of the INTO UEA (London campus) LLP joint venture to UEA is set out in our annual financial statements for 2013/14 and 2014/15 (see p. 6 within each) which are both available on the UEA website: <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/finance/financial-accounts>

6.) Professor Mifsud has a UEA email address. Please provide copies all email correspondence and communications between Professor Misfud and George Papadopolous.

**[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]**

Professor Mifsud is no longer affiliated with UEA and all UEA email accounts associated with him were decommissioned as per University policy over a year ago.

When an account is decommissioned, all email messages associated with that account are also deleted. We have also searched all other UEA email accounts for any of the requested emails that may have been copied to other individuals at UEA and have found none of the requested information. We therefore do not hold any of the requested information.