



University of East Anglia

Information Compliance (ITCS)

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12 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_18-066)

We have now considered your request of 14 March 2018, as clarified on 26 March, for information on complaints concerning external speakers at UEA, and complaints regarding the content of books within our Library.

Our response is on pages 2-3 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 relevant to questions 3 and 4 of your request. Further information is on page 2-3 of this letter.

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, 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

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_18-066)

1. Have you received complaints about a guest or proposed speakers from 1st September 2010 to the 14th March 2018 organised by the university, if so:

- a) Which guest(s) or proposed speaker(s) were the complaints aimed at?
- b) What was the name of the event the person was speaking at?
- c) How many complaints did you receive?
- d) What was the nature of the complaints?

Yes, UEA has received a complaint regarding a guest speaker in the requested timeframe.

- a) Yanis Varoufakis.
- b) The event was the Penguin Live in Conversation with Yanis Varoufakis.
- c) One complaint was received.
- d) An individual complained that it was inappropriate for the University to support a commercial book signing on campus. The event went ahead as planned.

2. Have any speakers organised by the university had their invitation rescinded due to complaints, anticipated complaints or anticipated protest between 1st September 2010 to the 14th September 2018?

No.

3. Have you had any correspondence with your students' union regarding guest speakers who had their invitation rescinded due to complaints, anticipated complaints or anticipated protest between 1st September 2010 to the 14th September 2018?

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

As the UEA Students Union has not rescinded an invitation to a speaker due to complaints or protests in the requested timeframe, we do not hold any correspondence with the Union regarding such an action.

4. Has your university library received complaints about the books in the library between 1st September 2010 to the 14th September 2018?, if so:

- a) How many?
- b) Which books were complained about?
- c) What was the nature of the complaint?
- d) What action was taken?

[Clarified on 26 March to restrict question to complaints regarding content]

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

The University does not have any record of any complaint received regarding the content of any book within the Library in the requested timeframe.

5. Has your university library removed or restricted access to books between 1st September 2010 to the 14th September 2018?, if so:

a) What were the books?

b) What were the reasons given for their removal or restriction?

[Clarified on 26 March to restrict question to books removed or given restricted access due to complaints regarding content]

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

The University does not have any record of any items having been removed from the Library collection or given restricted access due to complaints received regarding their content in the requested timeframe.