

[REDACTED]

30 April 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_19-099)**

We have now considered your request of 29 March 2019 for information relating to students' use of social media platforms and monitoring of content.

Our response is on page 2 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 question 5 of your request. Further information is on page 2 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 40 working days of the date of this letter. In line with section 5.3 of the UK Government's Freedom of Information Act Code of Practice, we are not obliged to accept internal reviews after this date.

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.

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

Yours sincerely

Kirsty McDonald  
Information Compliance Assistant  
University of East Anglia

## Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI\_19-099)

*Does the university monitor student social media for adverse comments? If so, whose responsibility is this and approximately how much time do they spend monitoring accounts?*

No.

*How much money does the university spend approximately each year monitoring students' social media output? Please can you, if possible, categorise the spending by staff salary or hiring of outside consultants/ computer programs used.*

Not applicable – see response to question 1 above.

*Does the university deploy any software to help them monitor students' social media output?*

No.

*Does the university maintain lists of students who have made what the university considers inappropriate or inflammatory social media points?*

No.

*Does the university have a social media policy for students to follow? If so, please provide it.*

No, there is no specific social media policy targeted specifically at students. However, social media is covered within our Harassment and Sexual Misconduct policy.

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/6816233/Harassment+and+Sexual+or+Physical+Misconduct+Policy+2018+Final.pdf2>

*Have any students in the last three academic years been sanctions for social media posts (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19)? If possible can you categorise what types of inappropriate posts they were eg racists/ inciting violence/ sexually explicit etc.*

No. No students have been given sanctions for social media posts for those years.