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[REDACTED]

05 December 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_14-242)**

We have now considered your request of 27 November 2014 for information relating to gender segregation.

We regret that on this occasion it is not possible to provide 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 any of the information requested. However further explanation of our current position is on page 2 of this letter, together with a copy of your request and we hope this information will meet your requirements.

You have the right of appeal against this response. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address.

You must appeal our decision 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 quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Ellen Paterson  
Information Policy and Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia

## **Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI\_14-242)**

*I am looking for information on the extent to which the guidance of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (published on July 17th 2014) and Universities UK (published on July 18th 2014) on gender segregation at universities has been implemented by your university, particularly in relation to meetings and events. These events can be on or off campus and organised by the university, the students' union, students societies or external organisations.*

- 1) *I would like to kindly request information on how your university*
  - a. *is assessing whether events are at risk of being gender segregated*
  - b. *is monitoring events for possible incidents of gender segregation*
  - c. *is preventing events from being gender segregated*
  - d. *has sanctioned or would sanction those responsible for gender segregation*

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

The University is not currently assessing or monitoring events with regard to gender segregation and as such holds no relevant recorded information in response to points A-D above. We do, however, believe that so far, outside of events of worship in our Prayer Facility's/Multifaith Centre, no segregated events have taken place.

We are very clear on the responsibilities we have to ensure equality of opportunity and access. If such an event were proposed we would intervene to ensure our responsibilities were met. During 2015, the University's Equality and Diversity Committee<sup>1</sup> will be invited to consider this matter and develop a full protocol to ensure all staff and students are aware of the position with regard to segregation (of any kind, including gender) in future event requests, and also feel confident to make an informed decision if approached with such a request. The guidance will be held on the University's equality web pages<sup>2</sup> once approved and circulated widely within the University community.

- 2) *If there have been any incidents of gender segregation at your university, kindly provide information on*
  - a. *the number of incidents of gender segregation*
  - b. *the name of the organisation (e.g. external organisation or student society) responsible for organising each of those events*

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

While we note this question does not specify a date range, we confirm that as we are not monitoring events we hold no recorded information on such an incident occurring within the University. It may be helpful to add that having consulted with relevant departments within the University, we have no evidence, anecdotal or otherwise, or recollection of any incidents having taken place.

Please note that as the Union of UEA Students is a separate body to the University and not subject to FOI, our above response relates only to the University position. We hold no information relating to the Union that is relevant to your request.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/equality/equality-and-diversity-committee>

<sup>2</sup> <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/equality>