

01 October 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST
(Our ref: FOI_14-190)

Your request for information received on 21 September 2014 has now been considered and it is, unfortunately, not possible to meet your request.

The University is not obliged to comply with your requests by virtue of s.14(1) of the Act, on the grounds that the request is vexatious. The Information Commissioner's Office has issued advice on the application of this exemption to information requests which can be viewed on the [ICO website](#).¹

We note that your request is very similar in subject matter and/or character to a series of 79 requests received by this University in 2011, 26 of which were from yourself. The similarity between these requests suggests to us that a pseudonym may have been used, but it is the nature of the request, rather than the identity of the requester, that ultimately leads us to conclude that s.14(1) is applicable. On 24 August 2011 we sent a letter to yourself which explained why we considered these requests to be vexatious. This letter can be found on our website within our [Disclosure Log](#).² We had a [similar request](#)³ last year which we found to be vexatious and feel that the same reasoning applies here.

We acknowledge that three years have passed since this letter was sent. However, our position remains unaltered for the following reasons:

1. The tone, presentation style and highly specific subject matter of your request are immediately comparable. We also believe that, given your prior requests, that this current request is a part of a pattern of persistent fishing expeditions.
2. We have considered our experience of dealing with the series of requests mentioned above, which suggest that numerous follow-up enquiries will be submitted, no matter what information is supplied. We believe that this evidence strengthens our argument that responding to the current request will impose a

¹http://ico.org.uk/~media/documents/library/Freedom_of_Information/Detailed_specialist_guides/dealing-with-vexatious-requests.ashx

²https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/6951133/FOI_11-171.pdf/d0a28508-4fb7-4e26-b75c-5b83a9906486

³https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/6949123/FOI_13-139.pdf/fd7cdb43-0a98-40b9-abac-7f310fdf9263

disproportionate burden on UEA. The ICO guidance on application of the s.14(1) exemption has been updated since 2011, however having reviewed this new guidance (see link above) and taking the context and history into account we consider that our response of August 2011 applies also to your request.

Pursuant to ICO guidance and s.17(6) of the Act, please also be advised that we will not be issuing refusal notices for any future similar requests that we deem vexatious as we would deem it unreasonable to issue a refusal notice for a similar request. We will simply not process any such requests.

You have the right of appeal against this decision. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your grounds of appeal and send to me at 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 at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: <http://www.ico.org.uk/>

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

Yours sincerely

David Palmer
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia