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██████████  
  
19 March 2015

Dear ██████████

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_15-048)**

We have now considered your request of 01 March 2015 for information relating to extremism and the Prevent strategy at the University. Our response is on page 3 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

However, with regard to your request for “...copies of any policies or action plans (or obviously similar documents however titled) relating to extremism at the University”, the University neither confirms nor denies that it holds any of the information relevant to that part of your request.

Section 1(1)(a) of the Act generally requires a public authority to confirm whether it holds information that has been requested. However the Act also provides exemptions from this duty, where verifying whether information is - or is not - held would in itself reveal information that would otherwise be exempt under the Act. We have determined that the following exemptions apply to the information you have requested:

Section	Reason for withholding information
24(2)	Exemption from section 1(1)(a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.
31(3)	Compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders
38(2)	Compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or endanger the safety of any individual

For each of the above exemptions, the decision neither to confirm nor deny that information is held is subject to a public interest test. There is undoubtedly a current public interest in the perceived threat of domestic extremism, in maintaining the transparency of security operations, and in providing assurance that organisations are appropriately and effectively engaging with the issue.

Nonetheless, there are very strong arguments supporting non-disclosure. To confirm or deny the existence of institution-specific policies and plans could reveal the level and nature of counter-extremism measures, would enable those engaged in criminal activity to identify the potential targets and would ultimately compromise security tactics and operations.

We believe that any disclosure of plans and policies specific to the monitoring or prevention of extremism, however limited, may result in safety implications for the general public. We believe that there is stronger public interest in safeguarding national security, public safety, and the integrity of police investigations and operations in this highly sensitive area. We have therefore concluded that our duty to confirm whether information is held does not apply in this particular case.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

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.

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 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\_15-048)

*I am writing to request information relating to extremism and the Prevent strategy at the University. Please can you tell me:*

*\* The 2014/15 and 2015/16 budgets for preventing or monitoring of extremism at the University*

Zero. There is no budget explicitly designated for the prevention or monitoring of extremism at UEA.

*\* The number of staff employed by the University for the purpose of preventing extremism or coordinating preventing extremism policy, etc (i.e. staff whose main duty is related to this area, as opposed to the general duties all staff will have)*

Zero. There are no staff whose role is directly related to the prevention or monitoring of extremism at UEA.

*Please can you also provide me with copies of any policies or action plans (or obviously similar documents however titled) relating to extremism at the University. If the University has annual action plans for dealing with or monitoring extremism, just a copy of the most recent will suffice.*

The University will neither confirm nor deny that it holds the requested information for the reasons set out the above letter.