

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 10 December 2012

Public Authority: Royal Holloway University of London
Address: Egham
Surrey
TW20 8HB

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant has asked Royal Holloway University of London ('the University') for information about the membership of a University Redundancy Sub-Committee.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the University did not deal with the request for information in accordance with the FOIA in the following way:
 - It failed to provide a response to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days
3. As a response has now been provided the Commissioner requires no steps to be taken.

Request and response

4. On 20 April 2012, the complainant wrote to the University and requested information in the following terms:

"... that Redundancy Committee will meet in late May, can you please let me know the membership of this Committee? Indeed, it would be helpful to know the membership of the Redundancy Sub-Committee"
5. The University responded on 22 May 2012 issuing a refusal notice stating that it was withholding the information but that it was intended for future publication. It therefore applied section 22 to the requested information.

6. The complainant requested an internal review on 25 May 2012. The University provided the outcome of the internal review on 26 June 2012 and upheld its original position.
7. The information was published on 12 July 2012.

Scope of the case

8. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 27 June 2012 to complain about the way his request for information had been handled.
9. As the information was provided to the complainant shortly after this date, the University's application of section 22 will not be considered.
10. The scope of this case is limited to considering whether the refusal notice issued to the complainant was in line with statutory requirements.

Reasons for decision

11. Section 10(1) of FOIA states that a public authority in receipt of a request for information has a duty to respond within 20 working days.
12. From the information provided to the Commissioner in this case it is evident that the University did not respond to the complainant within the statutory time frame. Its response was issued after 21 working days.

Right of appeal

13. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0116 249 4253

Email: informationtribunal@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/courts-and-tribunals/tribunals/information-rights/index.htm

14. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
15. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Rachael Cragg
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