

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 13 June 2016

**Public Authority:** University of Manchester  
**Address:** Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL

#### **Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant has requested information from the University of Manchester (the University) relating to the animals which were used for research purposes at the University.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the University did not deal with the request for information in accordance with section 10 of the FOIA in the following way:
  - It failed to provide a response to the request within that statutory time frame of 20 working days.
3. The Commissioner requires the University to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation:
  - Issue a response under the FOIA.
4. The University must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of the Act and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

#### **Request and response**

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5. On 20 November 2015, the complainant wrote to the University and requested information in the following terms:

- *The number of animals (i) bred (11) acquired(iii) supplied (iv) used in procedures (v) set – free or rehomed and (vi) who died or were killed in 2014 at the University, in each case in connection with an establishment licence granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986?*
  - *Provided the numbers in each category by species.*
  - *Information to be provided in an anonymised form.*
6. The complainant informed the Commissioner that the University has not responded to the request.

### **Scope of the case**

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7. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 29 March 2016 to complain about the way his request for information had been handled.
8. The complainant specifically stated that the University had not responded to his request.
9. The Commissioner has had to consider whether the University has handled the request in accordance with section 10 of the FOIA.

### **Reasons for decision**

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10. Section 10 of FOIA states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and “no later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt”.
11. From the information provided the Commissioner in this case, it is evident that the University did not respond to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days. The Council has therefore breached section 10 of the FOIA.
12. As no response has been provided to the complainant, the Commissioner requires the University to issue a response under the FOIA.

## Right of appeal

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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: 0870 739 5836

Email: [GRC@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:GRC@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

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**  
**Group Manager**  
**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**