

From: Freedom of Information
Sent: 08 September 2020 15:55
To:
Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/310)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/310)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 12 August 2020, reference K/20/310.

Your request read:

“1) Copies of any emails, including attachments, sent to or from an @tiktok.com or @bytedance.com email address to any university email address between 1 January 2019 and 12 August 2020 inclusive.

This request can be done by a simple search for [*@tiktok.com](mailto:@tiktok.com) and [*@bytedance.com](mailto:@bytedance.com) email addresses.”

As a University we have not had any official or formal correspondence with either TikTok or ByteDance.

However, for the sake of completeness we have conducted a review of our email system and have located approximately 200 emails to/from TikTok and/or ByteDance within the timeframe of your request. It is our understanding that these emails are personal items of correspondence, for instance in cases where individuals have signed up for services using their university email account. Such emails are not held by the University of Leeds for the purposes of the FOI Act, as set out at section (3)(2)(a), which states that information is held by a public authority if it is held by the authority, otherwise than on behalf of another person. Even if this information were held by the University of Leeds for the purposes of the FOI Act, we consider that it would be exempt under Section 40(2) of the Act, as the information does not relate to any organisational business and as such constitutes personal data.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
Deputy Secretary
The University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University's response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds