

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 11 September 2020 14:28

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/326)

Dear,

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/326)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 24 August 2020, reference K/20/326.

Your request read:

“Specifically, I wish to request redacted copies of all written materials relating to the forced swim test produced by the university's Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body from February 2020 to present.”

The University of Leeds holds some information relevant to your request.

In February 2020, the University of Leeds received a letter from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA), urging the then-Vice Chancellor of the University Sir Alan Langlands (since retired) to formally ban the use of the Forced Swim Test (FST). The letter was distributed to members of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Committee (AWERC) for consideration and discussion at their next meeting, which was scheduled for 19 March 2020. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was cancelled. The letter will therefore be considered at the meeting due to be held on 30 September. As such, the only written material we hold is a copy of the letter from PeTA, and the agenda for the cancelled meeting. Both documents are attached.

Please note that we have redacted personal information within the letter under section 40(2) of the FOI Act.

Section 40(2) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if it is the personal data of someone other than the person making the request, and disclosure would; contravene the data protection principles; contravene an objection to processing; or if the data is exempt from the right of subject access. We consider that the release of this information would be likely to lead to the identification of individuals, in contradiction to their expectations. This would be unfair and would therefore breach their data protection rights.

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