

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 13 November 2020 15:57

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/411)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/411)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 16 October 2020, reference K/20/411.

Your request read:

“Has the university received funding from any of the following companies since 2013: BAE Systems, Babcock International, Qinetiq, Rolls-Royce; Serco; Cobham and Raytheon UK, Airbus, DXC Technology, General Dynamics UK, Leonardo MW UK, Lockheed Martin UK?

If so, please include the following details:

- a. Total funding supplied by the company
- b. The titles of the projects it is associated with
- c. Descriptions of the projects it is associated with

Please provide the information in digital form.”

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

We can confirm that we have received [research](#) funding from one or more of the companies you have listed, since 2013.

The University works with corporate partners on innovative, cutting edge projects across a range of fields. As you might expect, partnerships between universities and individual companies and corporations are often subject to confidentiality agreements and contractual clauses which place upon all parties an obligation to protect the commercial interests of one another.

As such, except where we have received explicit consent from the funding organisation to confirm the existence of a partnership, we are withholding the information we hold under section 43(2) of the FOI Act.

Whether or not an organisation is currently working (or has previously worked) with a University is, in itself, sensitive information. To disclose the names of organisations with whom the University partners would provide competitor organisations with information which they would not ordinarily have access to. This, in turn, would be likely to have a reputational impact (either positive or negative) on the organisations, which may impact on their position in the marketplace. We consider it likely that this would be likely to dissuade organisations from working with the University in future, reducing the University's ability to secure funding, participate in cutting-edge research and serve the needs of our students.

Section 43(2) of the FOI Act is a qualified exemption, which means that the

University is required to conduct a public interest test. There is a general public interest inherent in the FOI Act which supports the disclosure of information on an open and transparent basis. We also consider there to be a general interest in understanding how the University earns and spends its money. However, we consider this interest to be met via University's commitment to adhering to high ethical standards and the University's values, which ensure our financial integrity.

We also consider there to be a strong and specific public interest in the University being able to work with corporate partners without undue interference or scrutiny. The University of Leeds is a world-leader in innovation and research and there is a very strong public interest in ensuring this work can continue.

As such, we are satisfied that the public interest in favour of disclosing the information is significantly outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

The information we can provide is set out in the table below:

Company	Total Funding	Project Title	Description
Rolls Royce PLC	£10,000	FRICITION: Innovation Fund	Friction Innovation Fund
Rolls Royce PLC	£122,040	STRAPP - Trusted Digital Spaces through Timely Reliable & Personalised Provenance	STRAPP

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