

**From:** Freedom of Information  
**Sent:** 09 November 2020 16:03  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/426)

Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/426)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 22 October 2020, reference K/20/426.

Your request read:

“Campus facilities are currently limited due to the move to online learning which naturally means our tuition fees must be going elsewhere. I'm interested to find out information such as whether the electricity bill has decreased since the start of this semester, and if less money is being spent on staff e.g. cleaning staff.

Thus, I'm writing to request access to a breakdown of university expenditure since the start of this term/semester.”

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

We do not yet hold a breakdown of university expenditure, as the new academic year has only just commenced and not all invoices have been received and processed. We will consider whether it is appropriate and feasible to publish a more detailed breakdown later in the academic year.

However, in the hope that it is helpful, we can provide the following information. Student fees only partly cover associated costs of running our university, as is described on the [“Our Income and how we spend it”](#) page on our website. Despite the current Covid situation, a large proportion of our cost base is fixed on things like our staff, buildings and equipment. We did see some reductions in utilities during lockdown, however, our campus is now 95% open and thus we are seeing utility bills similar to those we incurred last year.

In addition to this we are incurring extra costs in the development of our digital teaching operations and to ensure campus is Covid secure. These include additional necessary cleaning, Perspex, sanitiser and signage on campus as well as a helpline provision and support services for students in self-isolation.

We expect overall costs for the University in 2020-21 to be larger than the prior year, even after cost reductions to mitigate large expected fall in income. We are confident that, despite the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, students at Leeds are continuing to receive a high-quality education.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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