

**From:** Freedom of Information

**Sent:** 20 November 2020 16:42

**To:**

**Subject:** Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/431)

Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/431)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 24 October 2020, reference K/20/431.

Your request read:

“Low and middle income country: A country that is defined as ‘low’, ‘lower-middle’ and ‘upper-middle’ income by the World Bank for the year 2018. Income status defined by GNI per capita.

Source: World bank, available online [<https://tinyurl.com/y5dwc2qv>]

A patent grants an inventor the exclusive rights to his or her invention. A patent holder can stop other people from selling, manufacturing, producing, or using the invention for a certain period of time.

Source: Upcouncil, available online [<https://www.upcounsel.com/what-is-a-patent>]

Licence: Permission for the licensee to use the intellectual property rights

Source: TaylorWessing, available online [[https://www.taylorwessing.com/download/article\\_dos\\_and\\_donts\\_licensing.html](https://www.taylorwessing.com/download/article_dos_and_donts_licensing.html)]

Exclusive Licence: A licence that allows only the named licensee to exploit the relevant IP rights, the licensor is also excluded from exploiting these IP rights.

Non-Exclusive Licence: A licence that grants any number of licensees to exploit the IP.

Source: TaylorWessing, available online [[https://www.taylorwessing.com/synapse/commerical\\_exclusive\\_nonexclusive.html](https://www.taylorwessing.com/synapse/commerical_exclusive_nonexclusive.html)]

Health Technology: ‘Health technology as defined by the WHO: “A health technology is the application of organized knowledge and skills in the form of devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of lives.’

Source: WHO, available online [<https://www.who.int/health-technology-assessment/about/healthtechnology/en/>]

START FOI request:

Q1. Can you release your internal strategy regarding licensing and patenting of COVID-19 related health technologies?

Q2. Does the institution have a formal policy on licensing and patenting of COVID-19 related technologies? If yes, please provide a link or PDF to the relevant policy document.

Q3. Has the university considered updating their strategy regarding the licensing and patenting of health technologies since the start of the pandemic?

Q4. Please provide an Excel spreadsheet with headings as displayed below with all the COVID-19 related health technologies LICENSED by the university AND specify which countries they were licensed in AND specify whether they are exclusive or non-exclusive licenses.

Health Technology Licensed | Country of Licensing | Type of License  
(Exclusive or Non-Exclusive)

Q5. Please provide a list of patents granted to your organization for any COVID-19 related health technologies listed by patent family, indicating countries/regions in which the patent has been granted.

Q6. Does the institution have any plans on signing up to the Open-COVID pledge (<https://opencovidpledge.org/>) or any similar initiative that seeks to minimise intellectual property rights barriers during the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, please specify.

Q7. Is the institution considering the licensing of COVID-19 related health technologies to the Covid Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) or the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) during the pandemic? If yes, please specify.”

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

For your convenience, we have responded to each of your questions in turn below.

**1. Can you release your internal strategy regarding licensing and patenting of COVID-19 related health technologies?**

We do not have a specific written strategy relating to the licensing or patenting of Covid-19 related health technologies. Technologies licensed to date have been made available through our Licensing Portal.

- 2. Does the institution have a formal policy on licensing and patenting of COVID-19 related technologies? If yes, please provide a link or PDF to the relevant policy document.**

We do not have a specific written strategy relating to the licensing or patenting of Covid-19 related health technologies.

- 3. Has the university considered updating their strategy regarding the licensing and patenting of health technologies since the start of the pandemic?**

No

- 4. Please provide an Excel spreadsheet with headings as displayed below with all the COVID-19 related health technologies LICENSED by the university AND specify which countries they were licensed in AND specify whether they are exclusive or non-exclusive licenses.**
  - a. Health Technology Licensed**
  - b. Country of Licensing**
  - c. Type of License (Exclusive or Non-Exclusive)**

The University of Leeds holds this information. However, as the information we hold is publicly available, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOI Act.

Technologies licensed to date can be found at <https://licensing.leeds.ac.uk/products/COVID19-Resources>. These are all non-exclusively licensed, at no charge.

- 5. Please provide a list of patents granted to your organization for any COVID-19 related health technologies listed by patent family, indicating countries/regions in which the patent has been granted.**

There are no recent Covid-19 related/relevant patents that we have filed that have been granted. Although we have granted patents that could potentially have relevance to COVID-19, these were licensed pre-COVID-19 to commercial entities who now control the use of these patents.

- 6. Does the institution have any plans on signing up to the Open-COVID pledge (<https://opencovidpledge.org/>) or any similar initiative that seeks to minimise intellectual property rights barriers during the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, please specify.**

No.

- 7. Is the institution considering the licensing of COVID-19 related health technologies to the Covid Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) or the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) during the pandemic? If yes, please specify.**

No.

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