

**From:** Freedom of Information

**Sent:** 24 November 2020 14:16

**To:**

**Subject:** Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/468)

Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/468)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 12 November 2020, reference K/20/468.

Your request read:

“Firstly, could you please tell me how much your university spent on campus security or equivalent security services in 2018, 2019 and 2020 thus far?

Secondly, could you tell me how many full time employees are employed as part of your current campus security or equivalent security service teams?

And thirdly, could you please tell me how many complaints have been received by the university about members of your campus security or equivalent security service teams in 2018, 2019 and 2020 thus far?”

The University of Leeds holds this information.

In relation to part three of your request, we can advise that no formal complaints regarding campus security have been made in 2018, 2019 or 2020.

We are withholding the information we hold in relation to parts one and two of your request under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 31(1)(a) sets out that information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

To reveal the security measures and resources which the University has in place would be likely to make us more vulnerable to crime in future. By revealing the spend on on-campus security and the number of Security Officers we have, we would give an indication of our capabilities which could, in turn, be used to the advantage of individuals with nefarious objectives. We also consider that providing the information requested in this case could make it more difficult for the University to resist similar requests (e.g. for information on other security provisions). This information could then be added together into a ‘mosaic effect’ to give a very detailed picture of the security measures in place (and not in place) at the University. Motivated individuals could use the information in order to target the University, or to adapt behaviour in order to avoid detection.

Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exemption, and as such we are required to consider whether the public interest is in favour of maintaining the exemption or disclosing the information. We recognise that there is a public interest in understanding that the University’s security provision is sufficiently resourced and can safely support the

needs of the University community. However, we consider that these interests are met in the following ways:

- An overview of the security services provided at the University can be found on [our website](#), which demonstrates our commitment to student and staff safety.
- We also have a [Police Higher Education Liaison Officer \(PHELO\)](#) offering help, advice and support to students and staff on campus.

We also consider that, if there were any suggestion of wide-spread, significant or frequently recurring issues, there may be some public interest in understanding how the service is resourced. However, there have been no formal complaints received over the three years relevant to your request, and therefore there is no suggestion that any such issues exist. While a very small number of informal concerns have been raised on a handful of occasions to the Head of Security, these have been handled quickly and informally (and therefore have not generated recorded information). If any serious concerns had been raised these would have progressed to a formal complaint (with associated records).

Therefore, we consider that although providing the exact spend/budget and staff headcount of our security service would quantify our commitments to university security, it would not provide any substantial new information and would not serve any particular public interest. We therefore conclude that the public interest in this case is in favour of withholding the information.

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