Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/109)


Your request read:

- “What preventative measures has the University taken, or plans to take, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease (e.g. regular sanitising of campus facilities, provision of hand sanitiser in major buildings and all cafeterias, cooperation with local health services)?

- What activities, decisions, priorities, plans, and/or procedures in place/development does the University have to curb extant infections or to prevent initial infection as described above (e.g. plans relating to the timetabling and provision of classes, assessments, and exams in the event of university closure/interruption due to coronavirus)?

- In what circumstances would the University close to prevent the spread of the disease and how would this affect students and staff?

- To what extent does the University expect the coronavirus to impact the university and how might the coronavirus impact the university (i.e. what risk assessments, projections, discussions, predictions have been made)?

- Please could you provide any other information held by the University with any relation to or mention of the coronavirus virus or coronavirus disease?”

The University of Leeds holds this information.

We have launched a microsite aimed at students, staff and visitors which provides a range of information and advice in relation to novel coronavirus (Covid-19). This information sets out the activities, decisions, priorities, plans, and/or procedures in place, and as such is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOI Act (information reasonably accessible to the applicant).

The University of Leeds will follow relevant advice from Public Health England in relation to the management of the emerging situation. As further discussions are held and decisions are made, the microsite will be updated. As such, the information is intended for future publication and therefore exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the FOI Act. Section 22 is a qualified exemption, which means that we are
required to consider whether the public interest in the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it as this time.

We consider that the public interest in withholding the information until it is published as per the above is particularly strong. By ensuring that information is released as and when appropriate, we aim to mitigate against unnecessary concern and confusion across the university population and wider public. We therefore consider that the public interest is strongly in favour of withholding the information until its scheduled publication.

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