From: Freedom of Information  
Sent: 03 August 2020 15:50  
To:  
Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/224)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/224)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 6 July 2020, reference K/20/224.

Your clarified request sought the following information:

“The information I require is the [last 5 academic years] of data of:

1. [How much in £] funding received from [the following] companies involved in the exploration for and extraction of fossil fuels including coal, oil, gas and tar sands

   - Shell
   - BHP Billton
   - BP
   - Exxon Mobil
   - Glencore
   - Anglo American
   - Rio Tinto
   - Total
   - Statoil
   - Gazprom
   - Saudi Aramco
   - Chevron
   - Pemex
   - Coal India
   - National Iranian Oil Co
   - Petróleos de Venezuela
   - PetroChina
   - Peabody Energy
   - ConocoPhillips
   - Abu Dhabi National Oil Co
   - Kuwait Petroleum Corp
   - Iraq National Oil Co
   - Sonatrach
   - Petrobas.

2. Data on how the funding from these sources is distributed within the organisation. This includes research centres funded wholly or in part from this funding source, specific research projects funded wholly or in part from this funding source, number and role of staff members employed
fully, or in part from this funding, opportunities provided to students as a result of this funding, and any other spending reasonably included within this request. I'm requesting information on where the funding identified in request 1 goes (e.g. £X (incl funding source) provided to Department A for Project Y)

3. The number of graduates from each undergraduate and postgraduate programme offered by the university, sorted by the academic school that house the programmes. if this data is not readily available, i’d be happy for this part of the request to be limited to the Faculty of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Business, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences and Faculty of Environment. If this is still too time consuming, then please ignore this section of the request.

4. The number of students undertaking dedicated sustainability modules, sorted by their academic school. I am happy for sustainability module to be defined in the same way that UoL has done so in its sustainability reporting

5. The frequency of each industry of employment of graduates from each academic school. I’d like to know the main industries graduates go on to work in, broken down by academic school. With as granular detail as available as to the industry. By frequency, I just mean a quantified number of students employed in each industry (from available data).

6. The most frequent employers of recent graduates from the university. A list of the most frequent employers of students. All employers that employ 25+ graduates in a single year, including the number of students recruited.

7. A list of employers who have been invited onto campus for career or recruitment purposes, including career fairs, career advice talks to publicize their graduate programmes, or given any other on campus platform. Yes, ideally it would include events unrelated to recruitment, if the talk was given in their capacity with a particular firm. However, if this info makes the data unattainable, then i am happy for this to be limited to recruitment events.”

The University of Leeds may hold some of information relevant to your request. However, we consider that to respond to question two of your request as it is currently framed would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the FOI Act. Section 12(1) states that a public authority can refuse a request if complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. For the purposes of FOI, time spent on the permitted activities is calculated at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. The appropriate limit therefore represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours to determine whether the information is held, and to locate, retrieve and extract the information.

There are no particular means by which we can trace how incoming monies are spent or allocated, aside from those which are specifically earmarked for named projects or events. As such, in the first instance we would need to establish whether
a payment was made for a particular purpose. This would require a review of correspondence, project materials, meeting notes and other documents as it becomes apparent that they are relevant. It is not possible to estimate how long this would take, because the amount of associated records will vary from case to case. Some payments may be readily identifiable as being related to a specific project or to fund something specific, and in these cases only a short period of time would be required. However, it is possible that there are cases where discussions were held, and agreements made many months before funds are received. In such cases, it is likely that it would take significantly longer to establish whether there were stipulations associated with the payment.

It is also likely that there are some payments which were made without limitations on their use, and for which there is therefore no recorded information about how it should be used. In these cases, we would instead need to review correspondence, project documentation, meeting notes and other documents which post-date the payment in order to try and establish what the money was used for. In some cases, there may be a distinct ‘paper trail’ which can be used to quickly identify how money was used. In other cases, time-consuming and complex searches may be required, and even then, it is possible that no relevant information is found.

Some payments are made to the University specifically for general use; in such cases it is unlikely that any records are held which demonstrate how those specific funds were spent. It would be impossible for us to provide any information in relation to such payments, but we would not be able to identify them without conducting the reviews set out above.

Despite not being able to provide an estimate, we are confident that due to the extensive manual searches which would be required, it would take far in excess of 18 hours to establish whether any information relevant to part two of your request is held. Further time would be required for the remainder of your questions. We also consider that questions five, six and seven would all individually exceed the appropriate limit.

In order to refine your request, we recommend that you consider reframing part two of your request. For instance, a reduced timeframe, limiting your request to income received for particular projects or with stipulations on how it should be used (and which are therefore likely to have associated information more readily available). Alternatively, you may wish to pursue question one of your request on its own, and upon receipt of that information, submit a subsequent, targeted version of question two as a separate FOI request which is limited to only the companies (and monies) you are particularly interested in.

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:
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.

Yours sincerely

**Chloe Wilkins**
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds