Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/530)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 29 December 2020, reference K/20/530.

Your request read:

“- How does your university currently handle its food waste?
- What measures does your university have in place to prevent food waste?
- How much food waste has your university produced in the last five years (if possible, please provide figures for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 individually)?”

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

In relation to your first and second questions, we can advise that the University forecasts the procurement, prepping and cooking of food according to customer requirements and historical data trends in order to ensure that food waste is minimised. For the food waste that does occur, there are a number of ways in which we are working to ensure the food is redistributed. Food left over at the end of the day is posted on the ‘Too Good To Go’ app enabling users of the app to purchase the food at a lower cost. Uneaten food that is still suitable for consumption is sent to various homeless charities across the city, including Seacoles. Food waste, either cooked food, food scrapes from plates or food unsuitable for consumption is sent to an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant, through ReFood. Devonshire Halls (and conferencing centre) undertakes similar processes although they use a different contractor to send food to an AD plant and source their own charities to send their non-perishable food too.

In relation to your final question, we can advise that although we do hold information in relation to food waste, this will include food brought in by staff and students from home, food from catered events etc. and we cannot isolate food waste which was originally purchased by the University. Before 2017, the data only includes food waste from office caddies. From 2017, the data includes waste from food outlets, and as such the figures increase significantly. With these caveat in mind, please find below the total amount of food waste sent for anaerobic digestion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Food waste sent for AD (tonnage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>48.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>84.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>114.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>158.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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