Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/089)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 14 February 2021, reference K/21/089.

Your request read:

“I should like to request, through Freedom of Information, the following information about existing and future, rather than historic activities by the university.

1. A list of all activities carried out by the university, commercial, academic or for the purposes of research, carried out in China and specifically in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.
2. A list of all activities carried out by the university, commercial, academic or for the purposes of research, in the UK with Chinese academic institutions, companies or state agencies.
3. A list of all activities carried out by the university, commercial, academic or for the purposes of research, either in China or in the UK with Chinese counterparts, in the fields of transplantation, obstetrics, gynaecology, family planning and genomics.
4. A list of all funding applications made in the last three years either in China or in the UK with Chinese counterparts, in the fields of transplantation, obstetrics, gynaecology, family planning and genomics.
5. A list of all activities carried out by the university, commercial, academic or for the purposes of research, either in China or in the UK with Chinese counterparts, in the fields of advanced digital data gathering, biometrics, security, and defence.
6. A list of all current MoUs, partnership agreements or similar between your institution and Chinese institutions.”

The University of Leeds may hold some information relevant to your request.

However, we consider that to respond to your request 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.

We have outlined the reasons for invoking Section 12(1) below.

The information we hold is not organised based on the location of the activity, the country in which a partner is based, or otherwise by geography. Instead, information
is held by the team or department(s) to which it most closely relates. There is no central repository which shows all of our ongoing commercial, academic and research activities, plus our memorandums of understanding, partnership agreements and other relevant documentation.

As such, the only means by which we could establish what, if any, information we hold which falls within the scope of your request would be to review information held across the University. As a minimum, we anticipate that we would need to examine the records of the following:

- The finance department
- The marketing department
- The admissions team
- All Schools (of which there are 33) and Faculties (of which there are seven)
- The Research and Innovation Service

Due to the breadth of searches which would be required, it is not possible for us to provide an estimate of how long this would take. However, we are confident that it would exceed the 18 hour appropriate limit set out at section 12(1) of the FOI Act. In the hope that it is helpful, we can provide the following information:

- The Research and Innovation Service publish a range of information about current research projects on their webpages, including a list of current international projects
- The Faculty of Medicine and Health publish a list of current research projects on their webpages
- Information about research being carried out by the Faculty of Biological Science is available on their webpages
- We have responded to a range of Freedom of Information requests in the past which relate to our work in, or linked to, China. You can find copies of responses we have issued (between January and September 2020) on our disclosure log

We recommend that you review the sources of information set out above, and if you still require specific information, come back to us with a refined request. It would be most helpful if you could reframe your request so that it is targeted at particular types of information (e.g. research projects, spend on a particular type of work, etc.). This will limit the number of departments across the University which would need to contribute to the response.

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
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