Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/379)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 3 August 2021, reference K/21/379.

Your request read:

“As part of my research, I am seeking to compare the Action Plans produced by leading UK universities in response to Prevent Duty Guidance. Hence, under the Freedom of Information Act, I am writing to request:

1. a copy of your current Action Plan for Prevent;
2. the date/version of the Prevent Duty Guidance to which the Action Plan corresponds.”

The University of Leeds holds this information.

However, we are withholding the information we hold under section 24(2) of the FOI Act, which exempts public authorities from the duty to confirm or deny whether information is held in order to safeguard national security.

Section 26(1) of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) imposes a duty on “specified authorities”, including universities and other Further Education (FE) institutions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is called the “Prevent duty”. The University of Leeds has a legal obligation to comply with the Prevent duty. A general overview of our approach to the Prevent duty can be found on the [Secretariat pages](#) of our website.

We consider that to release a copy of our Action Plan would undermine the University’s ability to comply with its Prevent duty. Individuals inclined to incite, organise or carry out acts of terror are likely to be motivated, innovative and persistent in pursuit of any information which has the potential to contribute to their aims. To provide information which demonstrates our approach to Prevent, would be likely to provide would-be attackers with information which could be used to circumvent the University’s strategy for ensuring compliance with the Prevent duty. This would jeopardise the University’s ability to recognise students at risk and take appropriate action.

In order to rely on section 24(2), the University of Leeds must consider the public interest factors for and against neither confirming nor denying whether the information is held. The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is “substantial”. This means that an attack is considered likely. We therefore consider there to be a very strong public interest in ensuring that the...
University does not disclose any information which could be used by those seeking to carry out an attack/attacks. While we recognise that the public is interested in the Prevent duty, and how it is being approached by organisations, we do not consider this to outweigh the clear public interest in mitigating (or, at least, not increasing) the risk of an attack.

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.

Yours sincerely

**Chloe Wilkins**  
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat  
University of Leeds