Email 1:

Mon 23/11/2020 19:20

Dear Oxford FOI review team,

I would like to ask for a review into the decision made in the attached foi to not disclose the names of the two fossil fuel companies who have supplied £2,475,365 in research funding in the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

I would like to request this review on the following grounds:

1. The assertion that grant-specific information is 'not generally in the public domain' is factually false. This can be clearly seen by the fact that Cambridge clearly and regularly disclose where their research funding comes from as can be seen here: https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2018-19/special/04/04-FMI-2018-SectionL.pdf

2. The assertion that 'disclosure would damage its reputation for respecting the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information' is false given that the University did not promise to keep the name of the sponsor secret when agreeing to receive money from the sponsor.

3. The foi request states that disclosure of such information would weaken the position of the sponsor 'in negotiating the amount of research funding they provide to universities'. This statement makes it clear that this information not being public gives the company an asymmetry of information which weakens the ability of universities to negotiate with said companies. It is therefore a contradiction to state that releasing such information will be against the commercial interests of the company and against the commercial interest of universities as stated by the foi. If it is, truly, against the commercial interests of the company to disclose such information then it is in the public interest of universities that the terms of such agreements be publicly available to enable them to better negotiate with said companies in the future.

4. In light of the IPCC’s 2018 report which stated that global emissions need to be cut by 45% by 2030 to have a chance of avoiding 1.5C of warming and the fact that the majority of fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground to stick to the Paris agreement (https://unfccc.int/news/most-fossil-fuels-must-stay-in-the-ground-new-study) it is within the public interest to know which fossil fuel companies Oxford is receiving research income from. Students and staff at the university have a public interest to fully know how the university they attend is aligning to the Paris agreement. Furthermore, as an institution that receives public funding it is within the public interest to know how an institution supported by tax-payer money is aligning with the Paris agreement, part of which involves, knowing which fossil fuel companies Oxford receives income funding from as different fossil fuel companies have
different or non-existent net zero goals and different carbon footprints. Additionally, given the global threat of climate change it is within the public interest of all people to know whether Oxford is continuing to receive research income from companies not aligned with the Paris agreement. It is also in the public interest to know whether Oxford itself is not aligned with the Paris agreement as it would be if it assisting companies exploit further fossil fuel reserves beyond the limit which the IPCC report states can sustained. In light of the devastating impacts which could be brought about by climate change, as detailed by the 2018 IPCC report, knowing whether Oxford University is receiving research income from companies not aligned with the Paris agreement outweighs any benefit to the public interest in not disclosing this information.

I look forward to receiving your response regarding this internal review soon.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 2:

Tue 24/11/2020 14:19

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I write to acknowledge your request of 23 November 2020 for a review of the University’s response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

The University's aim is to respond to internal review requests within 20 working days. Our target therefore is to send you a substantive response by 22 December 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team

Email 3:

Tue 22/12/2020 15:50

Dear Information Compliance Team,

I am just wondering when I will be likely to get a response to my internal review request given that it has now been 20 working days since the request was submitted?

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]
Email 4:

Fri 01/01/2021 16:27

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Sorry for missing the 22 December. We were focussing on meeting the deadlines for first responses due before or during the closure of the office for the holiday.

Our revised target is to send you a response by the end of January.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 5:

Fri 01/01/2021 17:40

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thank you for responding to me. I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

I fully understand you and your team must be very busy.

However, I first emailed requesting to receive this information on the 27th of May 2020. It took until the 18th of June 2020 for me to be informed that this information was not made publicly available by Oxford. I submitted an FOI request on that same day, on the 18th of June 2020, asking for this information. It took until the 7th of September 2020 for me to be informed that Oxford was apparently unable to provide me with this information.

As a result, on the same day, the 7th of September, I sent an FOI request, of a far more limited nature, requesting research grant information as it relates to fossil fuel companies. After clarity was requested about what I defined as a fossil fuel company I sent through the FOI request that is currently being reviewed on the 10th of September. It took until the 17th of November for me to be told that Oxford would not be willing to provide me with the names of the largest fossil fuel companies providing research grants. I then submitted the current internal review on the 23rd of November. I have also not been told of any exceptional circumstance that justifies this review taking longer than 20 working days. Additionally, even if the ‘new target’ of the end of January was met, the review would still not have occurred within the 40 working days required under exceptional circumstances.
Not only am I surprised that this information is not publicly available already as it is at other universities, but no one should have to spend over seven months trying to get information from their own university about what research grants the university gets from fossil fuel companies. Deadlines that are meant to be legally followed have been missed at every stage.

Unfortunately, the research I am carrying out cannot wait forever. Unless I receive a response by the 8th of January, I will be sending a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. This provides an additional five working days for my review to be dealt with on top of the consistent delays that have already occurred. I believe this is a generous amount of time to provide before submitting a complaint.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 6:
Fri 01/01/2021 18:36

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I will try my best.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 7

07/01/2021 16:02

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Sorry again for the delay.

The companies that were not named in our original response were Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd and Shell Global Solutions International BV. The former has asked me to indicate that it is not a fossil fuel company, and that it makes its profit from the manufacture of gas turbines and nuclear plant.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]
Email 8:

07/01/2021 16:27

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thank you so much for that response and for providing the names and for responding before the 8th of January.

The point regarding Mitsubishi Heavy Industry is also noted.

Just to provide consistency though could I please ask that I am informed exactly how many authorised grants worth more than £50,000 were accepted from each of these sponsors and the exact total amount that the grants were worth for the financial years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 as originally asked for. Once this information is sent over we can draw this FOI to a complete close.

If it allows a faster response, I am happy to only receive this information regarding Shell but otherwise for purposes of consistency would still be keen to have the information regarding both companies.

Hopefully, this shouldn't take too long to send over as it sounds like this information has already been found to enable the past totals I was given.

I would sincerely like to thank you for all the work that you have done and once again for responding when you did.

I have also received the other FOI back regarding fossil fuel companies not on the Carbon Underground 200 List and would like to pass on my thanks for completing that FOI as well.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 9:

07/01/2021 17:38

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I took your review request literally as being limited to the names of the companies. So I’m afraid I will need to go back to Shell on the amount of money. I will pick this up next week (I don’t work on Fridays) and will try to get back to you within a week or so.
Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

**Email 10:**

07/01/2021 17:41

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Apologies for that and for not being more specific regarding my review.

Thanks for doing that. I look forward to hopefully hearing back from you next week.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

**Email 11:**

13/01/2021 10:53

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Here is the missing information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>No of grants</th>
<th>Total value of grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shell Global Solutions International BV &amp; Shell Research Limited</td>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>£1,838,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>£155,659</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

**Email 12:**

13/01/2021 11:10
Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thank you so much for sending that information through and thank you especially for getting that information through quickly.

Just a final request on this but could that response to my FOI review please be sent through as a pdf with the University logo, FOI reference number on and it being clear the information came from the Information Compliance Team in the same format used for other FOI responses? Sorry to make this final request but I just need to be able to easily show the source of all data I will use in my research.

Thank you once again for completing this FOI and review.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 13:

13/01/2021 11:30

Yes, will do.

Best Wishes
[FOI Oxford]

Email 14:

13/01/2021 11:59

See attached.

FOI-20200910-3-Research Income attached.

Best Wishes
[FOI Review]

Email 15:

13/01/2021 12:15

Thanks [FOI Oxford]!
All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]