Email 1:

27 May 2020 18:42

Dear Research Services,

I can't seem to find the reports online regarding Oxford's research income. Do you know how I could obtain access to these reports?

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 2:

Monday, June 1, 2020 3:53:05 PM

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I hope you are well. Your query regarding research income has been passed on to me.

The figures for Oxford’s research income can be found online at https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/information/income.

I hope this helps – please do let me know if there's anything further that I can help with.

Many thanks and best wishes,

[Finance Division]

Email 3:

Friday, June 5, 2020 8:58 am

Hi [Finance Division],

Thanks for that response.

I was more hoping if you knew how it might be possible to view the actual research income reports themselves?

I've tried finding them on the website but all the links to the actual reports don't seem to work.
All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 4:
18 June 2020 12:15

Hi [Finance Division],

Just wondering if you might be able to help me with this and how I might be access the research income reports?

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 5:
Thursday, June 18, 2020 12:33:39 PM

Hi [Member of OCJC],

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you on this – I was waiting on a response from my colleagues in Research Services – could I just check what the reason is behind the request and how the data is intended to be used, and do you have a departmental/university affiliation, or just college (are you an employee of ----)? Could I also ask what sort of data would be required, i.e. is it high level research income by division/department, funding type, etc? Sorry for all of the questions, but this will be useful in determining what we can look to provide.

Many thanks and best wishes,

[Finance Division]

Email 6:
18 June 2020 15:29

Hi [Finance Division],
I’m a student at the university and I’m carrying out research on how universities obtain their research funding.

When I have viewed research income reports from other universities it includes the specific sources of income for research that the university and departments have received and I was assuming Oxford would have similar reports?

I’m happy to answer any further questions if it would of use.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 7:

Wed 01/07/2020 17:14

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Your email of 18 June below to [Finance Division] in the Finance Division has been referred to the University’s Information Compliance Team, as it is a request for recorded information that falls within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act.

To ensure we provide the correct information, could you clarify please how you want the sources of research income to be classified? In the first instance, you may wish to refer to the information available here: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/information/income

Subject to you clarifying the information you want, we will reply to your request within the statutory deadline of 20 working days, starting from the day after receipt of your request.

Yours sincerely

[FOI Oxford]

Email 8:

Thu 02/07/2020 18:36

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for your email.
This is a link to Cambridge’s research income report to give a sense of the detail I am aiming to receive:

So I would like to know all the sponsors, within each funder type, who have provided more than £50,000 in total in authorised grants, how many authorised grants were accepted from each of these sponsors and the total amount that the grants from each sponsor were worth for the financial years 2018-19 and 2018-19.

Look forward to hearing back from you soon.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 9:

Wed 08/07/2020 16:22

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I’ve just noticed that you referred twice to 2018/19 in your email.

Could you clarify the timeframe for your request please? You may wish to bear in mind that the University’s financial year runs from 1 August to 31 July and that the current financial year is not yet over. Therefore, if you wanted information for two complete years, the most recent would be 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Also, and again for the avoidance of doubt, where you refer to ‘funders that have provided more than £50K in authorised grants, do you mean:

1. those who awarded grants within the relevant year that total more than £50K, irrespective of how much was paid during that particular year; or
2. those who paid out more than £50K within the year.

I need to ask because a grant may be paid out over several years.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 10:

Wed 08/07/2020 16:26
Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for getting in touch about that. I was meant to put the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

In terms of grants I was asking for A which refers to grants that were awarded even if not paid out in that particular year.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 11:

Thu 16/07/2020 14:43

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I attach an interim reply to your request for information on research income in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Yours sincerely

[FOI Oxford]

FOI-20200618-3 attached

Email 12:

Fri 17/07/2020 16:03

Hi [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for sending that through.

Can I get confirmation about whether it will be possible about whether I will be able to receive a breakdown by individual funder by at least the 7th of September then?

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 13:
Fri 17/07/2020 16:43

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I am on leave now and next week but hope to complete our response when I am back.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 14:

Fri 17/07/2020 16:44

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for that.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 15:

Thu 03/09/2020 13:15

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Could I check that the foi is still set to be completed by the 7th of September as stated previously?

It has already taken far longer than 20 working days to respond to this foi.

Look forward to hearing back from you soon,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 16:

Mon 07/09/2020 18:20

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I attach a further response to your request.
Email 17:

Mon 07/09/2020 23:46

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for that response.

That is a real shame for my research but thanks for trying nonetheless.

In order to make the undertaking far smaller and so as to ensure Section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act does not apply I am wondering if I could make a far more specific foi which focuses on an area of particular interest for my research?

I would like to know all the sponsors who are are companies that make the majority of their profits from the exploration, extraction, refining and distribution of fossil fuels and who have provided more than £50,000 in authorised grants for the financial years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. I would like to know how many authorised grants were accepted from each of these sponsors and the total amount that the grants were worth for the financial years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 18:

Tue 08/09/2020 08:37

Dear [Member of OCJC],

We will process this as a new request.

The Research Grant database is not organised according to industrial sector and so cannot be sorted to show funders engaged in the’ exploration, extraction, refining and distribution of fossil fuels’. However, if you could provide us with a list of companies, we can perform a search against those names.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]
Email 19:

Wed 09/09/2020 18:32

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for that.

Could you look at the companies in the Carbon Underground 200 2015 then? The list of companies can be found on pages 9 and 10 on the following report: https://fossilfreeindexes.com/download/2567/

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 20:

Thu 10/09/2020 07:30

Dear [Member of OCJC],

When I click on the link, it says that I don't have permission to access that page. Could you download that page and send it as a PDF or similar?

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 21:

Thu 10/09/2020 11:58

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Sorry about that. The list of companies in the Carbon Underground 200 2015 should be able to be seen in the pdf attached.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]
Email 22:

Fri 11/09/2020 09:22

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Thank you for your freedom of information request to the University of Oxford.

Subject to any clarification required, the University will reply to your request within the statutory deadline of 20 working days, starting from the day after receipt of your request.

Yours sincerely

FOI Oxford

Email 23:

Thu 08/10/2020 15:54

Dear [FOI Oxford],

I just want to check whether you will get back to this FOI within 20 working days as I believe today is the 20th working day after the request was sent?

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 24:

Thu 08/10/2020 16:44

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I’m afraid that because of staff shortages over the last few weeks, I will not be able to send you a full response today. I have only recently received the information, and will need to consult with the companies concerned before responding, in accordance with section 3 of the Government’s Code of Practice on Freedom of Information. However, by way of an interim response, I can inform you that during the period covered by your request, the University received 9 awards over £50,000, totalling just over £3,000,000, from four of the companies on your list.

My aim is to send a further response by the end of the month.

I apologise for the delay.
Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 25:

Thu 08/10/2020 16:54

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for that interim response and your explanation.
I look forward very much to getting a full response soon.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 26:

Fri 30/10/2020 15:55

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks again for your work on this. I'm just wondering for my research if you have idea about when a full response might be able to be given?

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 27:

Tue 03/11/2020 08:51

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Sorry for the continuing delay.
I'm waiting for responses from three of the companies concerned. I have sent chasers this morning.

I was informed of some further awards after my interim response, which should now read: 11 awards from 5 companies, totalling £3,312,000.

Best Wishes
[FOI Oxford]

Email 28:

Tue 03/11/2020 09:54

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for the response, for chasing those companies up and the interim response. That is all really useful.

Look forward to hearing back from yourself soon,

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 29:

Tue 17/11/2020 16:54

Dear [Member of OCJC],

With apologies again for the delay, I attach our final response to your a further response to your request of 10 September.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

FOI 20200910-3 Attached - In response also submitted an Internal Review (This email chain is in a separate document)

Email 30:

Mon 23/11/2020 18:39

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for that information.
I would also like to submit the following foi request given that since I submitted my original foi request the 2019-2020 year has been completed.

I would like to know all the sponsors who are companies that are listed in the Carbon Underground 200, pdf previously attached, and who have provided more than £50,000 in authorised grants for the financial year 2019-2020. I would like to know how many authorised grants were accepted from each of these sponsors and the total amount that the grants were worth for the financial years 2019-2020.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 31:

Mon 30/11/2020 11:48

Dear [FOI Oxford],

I would just like to receive confirmation that you received this freedom of information request on the 23rd of November?

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 32:

Mon 30/11/2020 15:15

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Yes, we did receive this and sorry you did not receive an acknowledgement.

Best Wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 33:

Mon 30/11/2020 16:56

Dear [FOI Oxford],


Thanks for the acknowledgment and all your work on this! It is all very much appreciated.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 34:

Fri 18/12/2020 16:58

Dear Mr [Member of OCJC]

Our ref: FOI/20201123/7

Please find attached the University’s response to your request.

Yours sincerely

FOI-20201123-7 Attached

Email 35:

Fri 18/12/2020 20:03

Dear Information Compliance Team,

Thank you so much for sending that through. I’m also grateful that you provided some information on project titles which I had not been expecting.

I am just wondering if you could send through the exact amount received from authorised grants as was done in the previous FOI covering the years 2017-18 and 2018-19 and is done by Cambridge? This would both be really beneficial to the research I’m carrying out and would enable me to be consistent in how I analyse the data.

I don’t think I need to submit an internal review regarding this as no reason was given as to why this hadn’t been done.

Thank you for all your work on this, and I look forward to receiving the information the rest of information when it is available and hope you have a good Christmas.

All the Best,

[Member of OCJC]

Email 36:
Dear Information Compliance Team,

Sorry to email again.

Just to clarify by ‘the exact amount received by authorised grants’ I meant the exact amount that each authorised grant was worth.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 37:

Tue 05/01/2021 10:16

Dear Mr [Member of OCJC]

Thank you for your freedom of information request to the University of Oxford.

Subject to any clarification required, the University will reply to your request within the statutory deadline of 20 working days, starting from the day after receipt of your request.

Yours sincerely

FOI Oxford

Email 38:

20/01/2021 12:39

Dear Mr [Member of OCJC]

Our ref: FOI/20201218/5

Please find attached the University’s response to your request.

FOI-20201218-5-fossil fuel funding and FOI-20201218-5 annex A attached.

Yours sincerely

[FOI Team]
Email 39:
20/01/2021 16:03
Dear Information Compliance Team,
Thank you for sending that information through.
I look forward to receiving the remainder of the information sometime soon.
All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 40:
10/02/2021 09:53
Dear FOI Team,
Hope you are well.
I am just wondering when the rest of the information is likely to become available?
All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 41:
17/02/2021 10:27
Dear FOI Team,
When will the rest of the information be available by as it now been almost three months since the initial FOI was sent?
All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 42:
03/03/2021 09:52
Dear FOI Team,

Please could you explain why you have not responded to either of my latest two emails and why you have not been able to provide any further information in over a month?

It has now been three months since I sent my FOI request so the relevant funders have now had more than ample time to respond to you.

Given the threat of climate change it is in the public interest to know this information regardless of whether the relevant fossil fuel companies desire it to be shared or not. It is in the public interest to know whether Oxford is receiving research grants from fossil fuel companies aligned or not aligned with the Paris Agreement.

I therefore expect and hope you will be able to provide the rest of the information very soon.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 43:

03/03/2021 10:34

Dear [Member of OCJC],

I am sorry that you have not received a response to your emails of 10 and 17 February. This may have happened because of confusion over the referencing. The reference in your subject line (FOI/20210618/3) concerns a request that has been completed, whereas I think you are chasing for further information in respect of another request (FOI/20201218/5)?

I will draw your email to the attention of the relevant case officer and ask them to update you.

Sorry again for not responding sooner.

Best Wishes
[FOI Oxford]

Email 44:

03/03/2021 11:01

Dear [Member of OCJC],

Apologies for that.
That confusion happened because this email chain began in May 2020 and hence FOI/20210618/3 did not ask for the information regarding the academic year 2019-2020 which FOI/20210618/5 concerns. I should have started a new email chain however to ask about the information for 2019-2020 for the purpose of clarity.

However, that is correct that I am seeking to know when FOI/20210618/5 will be answered fully as I was been told in the last update that they are still waiting confirmation from some funders.

Thank you for bringing this to the attention of the relevant case officer however and I look forward to hearing from them soon.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 45:
04/03/2021 16:00

Dear [Member of OCJC]

I apologise for the delay in getting back to you on this request. We have now heard from all but one of the funders, and I attach the exact amounts of the donations and research funding from your requests on 23 November and 18 December. As I believe you had previously agreed with my colleague Max, we have not provided data concerning Mitsubishi, as they do not consider themselves to be a fossil fuel company and have objected to their inclusion on the Carbon 100 list.

I am just chasing BP now regarding the exact amounts of donations and hope to be able to provide you with an update shortly.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

Best wishes
[FOI Oxford]

FOI-20201218-5 annex A revised attached.

Email 46:
04/03/2021 16:54

Dear [FOI Oxford],
Thank you for sending that information through.

Just to check when you mention that you have 'now heard from all but one of the funders' is that just the donations from BP that you are waiting for that you mentioned at the end of the email?

The following is what I said to [FOI Oxford] regarding Mitsubishi regarding the FOI covering the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019:

"The point regarding Mitsubishi Heavy Industry is also noted.

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."

I went ahead without the information regarding Mitsubishi in that case mainly due to a time constraint I faced in requiring that information. However, for this FOI I will also need to ask about Mitsubishi. Regardless, of whether Mitsubishi feel they ought to be included on that list or not the Carbon Underground 200 is now used as the definition of a fossil fuel company by Oxford University itself and I will therefore require this information included in this FOI (https://gazette.web.ox.ac.uk/files/26march2020-no5272pdf page.357). According to Mitsubishi themselves, they do also still work in petrochemicals: https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/jp/en/bg/petroleum-and-chemicals-group/.

Apologies for the extra inconvenience this involves.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 47:

12/03/2021 12:55

Dear [Member of OCJC]

Please find attached an updated version of the data I sent through last week, now including the donations from BP – apologies for the confusion, it was just BP we were waiting for.

We will get in contact with Mitsubishi again and aim to provide you with an update by 26 March.

Best wishes

[FOI Oxford]
Email 48:

12/03/2021 14:49

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thank you for sending that information through.

Thank you for getting in contact with Mitsubishi again as well. Given how long I have already waited for this data please make sure the information does not come through any later than the 26th of March.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]

Email 49:

30/03/2021 12:11

Dear [Member of OCJC]

Please find attached an updated annex including data for Mitsubishi.

Best wishes

[FOI Oxford]

Email 50:

30/03/2021 12:24

Dear [FOI Oxford],

Thanks for sending this through.

All the Best,
[Member of OCJC]