

Request Ref: 2703

FOI Request dated **26/08/2022** as follows –

- *Please could you provide me with the total value of spend on staff recruitment agencies, which agencies were used, and how much was spent with each agency for the academic year 2021/2022?*
- *Also, please could you provide me with who your payroll provider is/ or what system you use to payroll your temporary staff ?*

Response

This request would require a manual trawl through all invoices as it is entirely dependent on what code/description the requisitioner uses on the PO. There is also no difference on our finance system between a recruitment fee to an agent or the costs of a contractor, which means we can't give any figures for spend as we cannot be sure without reviewing individual invoices what would be the total for each. Therefore S12 of the Act applies.

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
s1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 'appropriate limit' (18 – hours).

Activities that may be counted within our time estimations are:

- Determining if the information is held;
- Locating the information, or a document containing it;
- Retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

The following have not been included within our calculations:

- The time spent identifying information to be exempted
- The time dedicated to the process of redaction.

Please take this as a refusal notice in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act which states; A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is relying on a claim that section 12 or 14 applies must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice stating that fact.

Although excess cost removes the University's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

2. Our Payroll system is iTrent provided by MHR.