

Request Ref: 2789

FOI Request dated **06/01/2023** as follows –

1. *Has any decision been taken to sell the Lawns*
2. *Has the Home Office approached the University of Hull to purchase the Lawns for the housing of asylum seekers or other purposes and if so what is the current status of that expression of interest*
3. *If no decision has been taken about the intention to sell The Lawns what is the status of the Lawns in the University property portfolio and given it is currently mothballed any timescale for decisions.*

Response

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

It has been determined that this information is exempt on the basis that s21 of the Act applies – Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement for me to conduct a public interest test, however in order to provide assistance I provide the following links - <https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/more/media-centre/news/2023/the-university-of-hull-clarifies-that-it-will-not-sell-or-rent-the-lawns-and-ferens-hall-property-to-the-home-office> & <https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/more/media-centre/news/2023/the-university-of-hull-formally-rules-out-the-sale-of-the-lawns-and-ferens-hall-property-to-the-home-office>