



UNIVERSITY  
of HULL

**Request Reference: 3597**

FOI Request dated 24/02/2026 –

1. *Copies of electricity and gas bills (or a summary equivalent) for the most recent 12-month period available.*
2. *Total annual electricity consumption (kWh) for the same period.*
3. *Total annual gas consumption (kWh) for the same period.*
4. *Total annual cost (£) for electricity and gas, separately if available.*
5. *The name of your current energy supplier(s).*
6. *The contract end date(s) for electricity and gas supply.*

**Response**

1. Exempt as per s43 (2) \*
2. 101,470 kWh for the university's last full financial year of 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025
3. 21,153,666 kWh for the university's last full financial year of 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025
4. £5,027,163
5. Exempt as per s43 (2) \*
6. The university's current supply agreement has no defined end date.

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

This part of your request has been exempted from disclosure under the following exemption:

**Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests**

Section 43 is a class-based, qualified exemption and is therefore subject to a public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

**Factors favouring disclosure**

Releasing information relating to the University's electricity and gas bills, including pricing arrangements and details concerning our supplier, would promote openness and transparency. Disclosure would support public understanding of how public funds are spent on essential utilities and could contribute to informed public debate about energy contracts within the public sector.

### **Factors against disclosure**

Disclosure of detailed billing information or commercially negotiated terms with our electricity and gas supplier is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the University and the supplier. Revealing this information could undermine the supplier's competitive position—particularly in a limited supplier market—and could negatively affect future tendering processes. It may also expose information resulting from sensitive commercial negotiations, weakening the University's bargaining position in future contract discussions.

### **Balance of Public Interest**

While there is clear public interest in promoting transparency regarding public spending, disclosing commercially sensitive information about our electricity and gas supplier and associated contractual terms could cause real harm. It could discourage suppliers from engaging with the University in future procurement exercises, potentially reducing competition and increasing costs to the public purse. It may also damage the University's relationship with the current supplier by exposing non-public commercial details.

Having considered all factors, the balance of the public interest lies in withholding the information under Section 43(2).

*Please be aware that Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made with the intention of furthering commercial interests, such as selling goods or services or gaining a competitive advantage over potential suppliers, are outside the intended scope of FOI. Using FOI for gaining a commercial advantage over others is not in line with the purpose of the Act and provides minimal or no benefit to the public. ICO guidance sets out that: "The public interest here means the public good, not what is of interest to the public, and not the private interests of the requester."*

*To assist you on this occasion and for future reference, you may find the following information helpful:*

- *For all procurement enquiries, if you are interested in becoming a supplier or you are a current supplier, please see our webpage: [Procurement | University of Hull](#)*
- *We suggest you view the Contracts Finder (government website): <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder> for information about contracts awarded/due for tender.*