

Our Reference: 2569

FOI Request dated 18/02/2022 as follows –

Can you please provide this information from 2015 to the present day.

I understand that a number of students tuition fees are paid for without the use of a student loan. Can you please provide me with the following information: 1) What are the total funds that the university currently has, as a result of overpayments, which are due to be returned to the party who paid?

2) What period do these overpayments date back to (if possible the figures broken down into each respective year)?

3) What is the total number of people that have made an overpayment and are due a refund, in each respective period?

4) What is the total number of people who have received refunds and the total sums, in each respective period?

5) What attempts are made to return overpaid monies?

6) What happens to monies that are not claimed?

7) Is interest accrued on refunds as a result of overpaid monies?

8) What is the process for getting a refund?

9) What happens if the person owed money is deceased?

10) Is there a time limit on refund claims?

Response

To retrieve the information requested would require a manual check of every refund which would exceed the FOI Cost Limit of 18 hours. 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.