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.