

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Publication Scheme

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PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. Legal Requirement

Adopting a publication scheme is a requirement of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This Act promotes greater openness and accountability across the public sector by requiring all 'public authorities' to make information proactively available through a publication scheme.

Public Authorities are defined in the Act and include universities, further education colleges and sixth form colleges

2. What is a publication scheme?

Every public authority is required to adopt and maintain a publication scheme setting out the classes of information it holds, the manner in which it makes the information available, and whether a charge applies. The purpose of a scheme is to ensure a significant amount of information is available, without the need for a specific request. Schemes are intended to encourage organisations to publish more information pro-actively and to develop a greater culture of openness.

3. The model publication scheme for higher education

The University of Hertfordshire has adopted the model publication scheme developed by the Information Commissioner's Office for the Higher Education sector and is therefore committed to publishing the information it describes. This publication scheme came into effect on 1st January 2009.

4. The University of Hertfordshire

We will be internationally renowned as the UK's leading business-facing university by:

- providing expert teaching informed by research, business and the professions.
- offering workplace engagement and overseas learning opportunities.
- creating and developing innovative ideas, products and processes.
- fostering and strengthening research with global partners.
- developing international partnerships.
- strengthening the global perspective in the curriculum.
- developing students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to succeed in business and the professions.
- enhancing relationships with business and industry.
- demonstrating and promoting our positive social, cultural and economic impact.
- attracting and developing outstanding people.
- strengthening the diversity of our community.
- consolidating financial sustainability.

The University of Hertfordshire is one of the region's largest employers with over 2,700 staff and a turnover of more than £238 million. With a student community of over 25,300 including more than 2,800 international students from 100 different countries, the University has a global network of over 195,000 alumni. For more information, please visit <http://www.herts.ac.uk/>

5. Accessing information in the publication scheme

The publication scheme is available as a downloadable pdf and a printed document. Copies of the printed version are available upon request from the Contracts and Compliance Information Officer (contact details below).

The Scheme indicates the format in which the information is available. The majority of the information in the Scheme is available via a web link or on request, either electronically or as a paper document, using the email or postal address below. Please mark all requests with "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PUBLICATION SCHEME REQUEST" so they can be processed as quickly as possible.

The information listed in this scheme is available free of charge unless otherwise stated. Multiple copies may be charged for depending on volume. Any charges will be identified to the requester prior to information being sent.

The information contained in the Scheme is divided into broad classes that are easy to understand, allowing easier and quicker access to the required information.

5.1. Classes of information

1) Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts

2) What we spend and how we spend it

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure

3) What our priorities are and how we are doing

Strategy and performance information

4) How we make decisions

Information on our decision making processes

5) Our policies and procedures

Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering services and responsibilities

6) Lists and Registers

Information we are currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers

7) The Services we Offer

Information about the services we provide

6. Information not included in the publication scheme

With effect from 1st January 2005 members of the public have the right, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to request access to any information held by the University which it has not already made available through its publication scheme.

On receipt of a written request, the University's obligations under the Act will be met by informing any enquirer whether it holds the information in question and if it does, subject to exemptions, by supplying that information to the enquirer, or making arrangements for the enquirer to inspect the information, within 20 working days.

The University will not release information if it is found to be covered by one of the 23 absolute or qualified exemptions. The University has to carry out a public interest test where a qualified exemption is concerned and must communicate the justification for exempting the information to the requester. Examples of possible exempt information include personal information (including members of staff, students or research subjects) the processing of which is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998; information that might prejudice the University's commercial interests; or that which would hinder the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of policy or decision-making. For the latter, the decision to exempt information from release must be made by the Vice-Chancellor in his role as monitoring officer.

7. Feedback and review of the publication scheme

The University will review the Scheme on a regular basis. Following each review it is expected that new information will be added to the list of current classes. Anybody who is unable to find any information listed or who would like to feed back on the scheme should contact the University. All views will be considered during the review process as a means of improving access to the information within the scheme.

8. Contacts

The Contracts and Compliance Information Officer is responsible for maintenance of the Publication Scheme. Please send any comments about the maintenance of the Scheme to Ian Hanahoe, Contracts and Compliance Information Officer by:

Post:
Room LB156
Main Building
College Lane Campus
Hatfield
Herts AL10 9AB

E-mail:
Foi-request@herts.ac.uk

The Office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) is responsible for promoting best practice and ensuring the University complies with the Act. Any matters that have not been dealt with satisfactorily should be taken up with the ICO at the following address:

Post:
The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

E-mail:
casework@ico.org.uk

9. Further information

More information about the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and publication schemes can be found on the Information commissioner's website at: <http://www.ico.org.uk>

PART TWO: PUBLICATION SCHEME & CLASSES OF INFORMATION

1. Who we are and what we do

This section includes information on how the University is structured, our vision, mission and values, our location and the key people involved in the running of the University.

Links to the information are provided throughout the scheme where information is available via a web link; all other information can be requested from foi-request@herts.ac.uk or by post from the contact address provided on our Freedom of Information web page <http://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/legal/freedom-of-information-data-protection/freedom-of-information> Information is available free of charge unless otherwise stated

Information	Fee
Legal Framework	
Articles of Government Set out the rules for the conduct of the University, procedures for the Board of Governors and Academic Council, the appointment of senior officers of the University, and other matters.	
Instrument of Government Sets out the constitution and role of the Board of Governors	
How the University is organised	
About Us	
Vision, Mission and Values	
Structure and Organisation – information on our overall structure and operation and for all of our schools	
Board of Governors – Terms of Reference and membership	
Academic Board – Terms of Reference and membership	
Office of the Vice-Chancellor	
University Court	
Key people	
Top Level Organisation Chart	
Location and Contacts	
Main contact	
Where to find us - details and maps	
Partners, Subsidiaries and Sponsors	
Subsidiary Companies A list of all our subsidiary companies, their nature of business and Board of Directors.	
Working with the Community	
Partner Colleges Our international partner colleges	
Consortium Colleges Information on how we support higher education through vocational study	
Research Institutes and sponsorship	

2. What we spend and how we spend it

This class includes financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit.

Some information relating to the University's commercial and financial interest may be exempt from publication and is not published in this section

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Information	Fee
Annual Report and Accounts Our Annual Report and Accounts provide information on sources of funding and income and budgetary and account information. The current and previous two Reports are available	
Summary Budget Statement	
Independent Auditor's Report to the Board of Governors: Annual Report and Accounts	
Capital Budget Statement Summary of plans for capital expenditure and allocation of budget	
Financial Regulations (UPR FR02)	
Salary Scales Including professional, academic, research and casual staff pay scales	
Expenses and Allowances (UPR FR01) Staff expenses and allowances and structure	
Tuition Fees	
Procurement and Tender procedures and Reports	
Preferred suppliers list Available on request from foi-request@herts.ac.uk	
Procurement manual and strategy	
Current Contracts available for Tender	
Contracts Register List of our current contracts, their value and expiry details	
Procurement Policy (UPR PU01)	
Terms and Conditions Our standard terms and conditions of business	
Research Funding	
UH Research Strategy	
Research Office Information on University's Research activity, funding information and contacts. Information on how we spend on Research can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts	

3. Our Priorities and Targets

Information can be obtained here on our key strategies and plans, performance indicators and relevant audits, inspections and Reviews.

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Information	Fee
Corporate and Business Plans	
UH Strategic Plan Our current strategic plan	
Annual Review	
Estates Strategy	
Information Management Strategy	
Student Experience Strategy	
Community Engagement Strategy	
Teaching and Learning General information about our provision of flexible learning opportunities and services	
Teaching and Learning Strategy	
Learning and Teaching Policy and Graduate Attributes (TL03)	
Academic Quality Information on the Academic Quality function and review	
Academic Quality Policy (UPR AS17)	
Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Institutional Audit Report	
Students employability Information on how we develop programmes with input from employers	

4. How we make decisions

Information included in this section contains details and documents on our decision making processes and records of those decisions, to include Board and Committee agendas and minutes.

In some instances information from committee minutes will be exempt from disclosure where it contains personal information, information that may damage the commercial interests of the institution or that which may cause a risk to the health and safety of specific individuals.

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Information	Fee
Board of Governors and Committees Minutes and Agendas Most recent versions of these can be found by following the link, previous versions of	

all minutes and agendas can be obtained from foi-request@herts.ac.uk	
Academic Board and Committees Minutes and Agendas Most recent versions of these can be found by following the link, previous versions of all minutes and agendas can be obtained from foi-request@herts.ac.uk	
Executive Structure Terms of Reference and structure of all Executive Committees and Groups	

5. Our Policies and Procedures

The University's Policies and Regulations (UPRs) are our written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities, including providing our academic and student services and our Human Resources function.

These can be found and downloaded on the main UPR web page (<http://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-governance/uprs.cfm>). A printed version can also be requested from foi-request@herts.ac.uk or by post from the contact address provided on our Freedom of Information web page <http://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/legal/freedom-of-information-data-protection/freedom-of-information>

6. Lists and Registers

This section contains information contained in currently maintained lists and Registers to include disclosure logs and any Register of Interests available.

Links to the information are provided throughout the scheme where information is available via a web link; all other information can be requested from foi-request@herts.ac.uk or by post from the contact address provided on our Freedom of Information web page <http://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/legal/freedom-of-information-data-protection/freedom-of-information> Information is available free of charge unless otherwise stated

Information	Fee
Freedom of Information Disclosure Log Log of all requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and information provided in response	
Registers of Interests Registers of Interest of all members of the Board and Senior Management personnel where available	

7. The services we offer

Information relating to the services we offer to our stakeholders including students, staff and businesses can be found here.

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Information	Fee
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Prospectus	
A copy of our prospectus can be requested here	
Course Information (including programme specifications)	
Services to Business	
The University of Hertfordshire is the UK's leading business-facing University providing a variety of services to meet businesses education, research and training needs. Information on the many services we provide to businesses can be found here, including conference facilities and office space hire	
Research and Innovation	
Information on all our Research and Innovation activity. Research is at the core of the University's corporate strategy to facilitate far reaching engagement with business, community and international partners. can be found here	
Learning Facilities	
Information on our Learning and study facilities including our Learning Resource Centres and specialist facilities	
Student Support	
Information on all our student support services including career guidance, financial support and counselling services	
Sports Facilities	
Information on the sport and leisure facilities provided by the University to its staff, students, the local community and professional sportspeople and teams	
Arts and Galleries	
Information about our Arts and Galleries facilities, services and volunteer opportunities	
Information Resources	
Voyager catalogue of all information resources, books, journals, etc. Also contains copies of past exam questions for the last 5 years	
Conference and Business facilities	
Information on the professional conferencing service provided by the University	
Press and Publicity	
Access our current and past press releases and news archive.	
Alumni	
Information on the service we provide to all graduates of the University, including membership, sports and leisure facilities, reunions and funding opportunities	