



## Freedom of Information Request 024/22-23

*Response Date: 27/09/2022*

**I would like to know who the Postgraduate research committee/team are and who the nominee of the board is (Science and Engineering). I also require the details of who the filtering committee are please, and where all this information i require is shown? on the Swansea website? information for students? is located or not?**

### **RESPONSE**

The University can confirm that the information requested is not held on any papers or webpages in the public domain.

Your request for information in relation to those within the postgraduate research committee, the nominee of the board, and the names of those within the filtering committee has been considered and the University is not obliged to provide you with this information

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Swansea University, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if it would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

In relation to your particular request, the following exemptions apply:

#### **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**

#### **Section 14(1) – Vexatious Request**

#### **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**

Section 40(2) is an absolute class exemption and therefore the University is not required to consider the public interest in disclosure.

The Data Protection Act covers processing of personal data about a living individual. Personal data means data which relate to a living individual who can be identified:

- (a) from those data, or
- (b) from those data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller or any other person in respect of the individual.

Information will relate to a person if it is about them, linked to them, has some biographical significance for them, is used to inform decisions affecting them, has them as its main focus, or impacts upon them in any way.

Individuals will have a reasonable expectation that the University will not disclose information relating to them. It would not be in the reasonable expectation of the individual and would be considered as unfair, therefore would contravene the first data protection principle which requires that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) provides an exemption to the right of access to information where disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a refusal notice for this part of your request.



**Swansea University**  
**Prifysgol Abertawe**

### **Section 14(1) – Vexatious Request**

Section 14(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request for information is deemed vexatious.

Under S14(1) there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test and no requirement to provide any information or confirm or deny whether the information is held.

The University has taken cognisance of the Information Commissioners guidance on Vexatious requests which can be found at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/dealing-with-vexatious-requests-section-14/>

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this request.

**END OF RESPONSE**

