

## **Privacy and confidentiality statement for intercollegiate committee minutes and papers**

To assist Colleges in offering efficient and effective ways of managing their business and meeting their charitable objectives, a number of intercollegiate committees have been set up: many of these are managed by the Intercollegiate Services Limited (ISL). The following statement applies to:

- Colleges' Committee, and its Standing Committee.
- Bursars Committee, its Business Committee and any of its sub-committees.
- College Development Directors' Committee.
- Colleges' IT Committee.
- Senior Tutors' Committee, its Business Committee and any of its Standing Committees.
- any ad hoc working groups or other committees set up by any of the above.

The minutes and papers of the listed intercollegiate committees are not published immediately after each meeting. The Colleges collectively acknowledge their responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and will respond to requests for copies of intercollegiate committee minutes and papers through the procedures outlined below.

Accordingly, intercollegiate committee members are advised that all minutes, papers and discussions at meetings are provided in confidence to its committee members, and are not shared outside of the specific membership unless it is agreed between the participants to make those outputs more generally available through other means (e.g. publication on the public ISL website), or with the permission of the officers of the relevant committee, standing committee or sub-committee.

### **Principles for the withholding of materials on request**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows for the exemption of the provision of information under a number of categories. The most common ones that apply to information relating to intercollegiate committees are:

- Section 43      where the provision of the information would breach the confidentiality principles of the intercollegiate committee and particularly where it would be deemed at the time to compromise the commercial interests of one or more of the Colleges (e.g. at a time when negotiations between the Colleges, or negotiations of the Colleges with the University or a third party are current or recent).
- Section 36      where knowledge of the potential for the information to be public would hinder (now or in the future) the free and frank advice or discussion between the committee members, or otherwise compromise the ability of the Colleges to conduct their public affairs.
- Section 22      where the information is intended for future publication.
- Section 21      where the information is already readily accessible to the requester (which may include circumstances where the information is available by collating information from a number of other sources).

- Section 40 information which is the personal data of others (and especially Fellows, staff or students of the University or one or more Colleges), and where providing the information would breach current data protection legislation.
- Section 12 the cost of providing the information exceeds the statutory limit (which corresponds to 18 hours of work): this may relate to the aggregation of costs of related requests received within 60 working days from the same person or from people who seem to working together.

Given that the members of intercollegiate committees are normally senior posts within the College, the membership of an intercollegiate committee will not be considered personal data.

Intercollegiate Services Limited, on behalf of the listed intercollegiate committees compiles annually a digest of the minutes of meetings relating to specific academic years. These are available after the first formal and ordinary meeting of the next academic year of the intercollegiate committee, at which point the final set of minutes from the previous academic year are confirmed.

Recent intercollegiate committee minutes and papers are therefore highly likely to be exempt under the first three points above: when a request for information is received, an assessment at that time is conducted to determine whether the exemptions would still apply.

#### Procedure for requesting intercollegiate committee minutes and papers

1. Any request should be made to the Chair of the relevant committee. (Where requests are received within an individual College – by a committee member or a College Freedom of Information Officer – the requester should be directed to the Secretary of the relevant committee, citing Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 if necessary.)
2. The College of which the Chair is a member will be responsible for managing any formal request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, on behalf of all of the Colleges, and will confirm to the requester in writing that this is the case.
3. The Chair will, where relevant, consult with the persons who support them in servicing the committee. They will consider the appropriate redaction of material(s) on behalf of the committee and, where appropriate:
  - a. consult the committee members on any arising concerns relating to confidentiality; and/or
  - b. in circumstances where a Section 36 exemption is applied, consult their Head of House as the qualified person to make an appropriate opinion on the reasonableness of applying the exemption.
4. A record of the information issued (and any exemptions applied) shall be kept by Intercollegiate Services Limited (ISL), so that the material could be reviewed, re-issued or re-used for any subsequent requests.