

Our Ref: SAR/2023/1094  
Your Ref:

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Legal Services

Director  
Dr N Cárdenas Blanco  
Solicitor

Professor Norman Fenton



(By Email)

27 July 2023

Dear Professor Fenton

**Re: Subject Access Request**

Under Data Protection law an individual is entitled to request copies of “personal data” which is held about them unless an exemption from disclosure applies.

In your request you wrote:

*Following the cancellation of my presentation on Bayesian networks to the Health and Care Analytics Conference 2023 as described in this article: <https://wherearethenumbers.substack.com/p/blasphemers-begone> please supply copies of all emails and other available electronic communications between conference committee members (including the co-chair Ben Goldacre) and others in which my name or conference contribution is mentioned.*

*The relevant dates would be from May 2023 onwards.*

Under the right of subject access, an individual is entitled only to their own personal data. They are not entitled to information simply because they may be interested in it. Subject access provides a right to see the information contained in personal data, rather than a right to see the documents that include that information.

The DPA provides that, for information to be personal data, it must relate to a living individual and allow that individual to be identified from that information (either on its own or in conjunction with other information likely to come into the organisation’s possession). The context in which information is held, and the way it is used, can have a bearing on whether it relates to an individual and therefore on whether it is the individual’s personal data. Simply because a person’s name appears in a document does not mean that the information contained within that document will be personal data about the named individual.

I confirm that we have applied these principles in compiling the response to your request.

Please find information that is drawn from documents held by the University attached to this email as a PDF, titled ‘Final disclosure’. We have been obliged to mask information which might identify other third parties and mask other data that does not relate to your Subject Access Request and is not your personal data.

University of Birmingham Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2TT United Kingdom  
T: 0121 414 3916 E:legalservices@contacts.bham.ac.uk w:www.bham.ac.uk

The University's web page entitled "How the University uses your data", <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/privacy/index.aspx>, explains how the University uses personal data that it collects.

Information about your rights in relation to your personal data which is processed by the University can be found at:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/leadership/governance/policies-regs/data-protection.aspx>.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner in relation to the University's processing of your personal data. Details of how the ICO can be contacted are available on their website: <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>.

If you have any queries in relation to your response or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Ms M Connolly**  
Paralegal  
Legal Services  
University of Birmingham

Encs