



George Engels
By email

Reference: FOI-2018-229

19 April 2018

Dear Mr Engels,

Your request was received on 22 March 2018 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

My request relates to Dr Aleksandr Kogan, a senior research associate at the Department of Psychology, and his work with Global Science Research (GSR) and consulting firm Cambridge Analytica using data acquired from Facebook through the "This is your digital life" app.

By correspondence, I mean verbal and written communications, including but not limited to: emails, text messages (WhatsApp, SMS, iMessage), briefings, presentations, and reports.

- 1. I would like to know the exact date when the University of Cambridge and its Psychometrics Centre were first made aware of Dr Kogan's work with GSR and Cambridge Analytica. I would like to request the documents/correspondence relating to this.*
- 2. I would like to request a copy of all documents and/or correspondence related to the external arbitration process between Dr Kogan and the psychometrics department described in the The Financial Times article ("Cambridge academics fought man at centre of Facebook furore", published March 21, 2018: <https://www.ft.com/content/fe8cfa26-2d19-11e8-9b4b-bc4b9f08f381>).*

The information requested is exempt under section under section 42(1) of the Act because it comprises information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained, in this case variously advice privilege and litigation privilege. As this is a qualified exemption, the University has considered whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The University is aware of, and has taken into account, general arguments concerning the transparency of its operations, especially given the current media interest in matters relating to this issue. However, these arguments are in the

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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Registrary's Office

University's view outweighed by the public interest in protecting its ability to take confidential legal advice, and to have confidential discussions pertaining to that legal advice, in conducting its business.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of this decision, you should write to Dr Kirsty Allen, Head of the Registrary's Office, quoting the reference above, at The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1TN or send an email marked for her attention to foi@admin.cam.ac.uk. The University would normally expect to receive your request for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter and reserves the right not to review a decision where there has been undue delay in raising a complaint. If you are not content with the outcome of your review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

James Knapton