

Registrar's Office

Queen's University Belfast
Belfast
BT7 1NN
Northern Ireland
Tel +44 (0) 28 9097 2500
Fax +44 (0) 28 9097 2510
www.qub.ac.uk

Our ref: FOI/10/65

4 June 2010

Mr D Keenan
The Limehouse Cut
LONDON
E14 6NQ

Dear Mr Keenan

Freedom of Information Request – Location of Tree and Ancillary Data

My letter, dated 12 May 2010, on the above refers.

Having reviewed your request and consulted with appropriate colleagues, I would respond as follows:

I can confirm that although this information is held by the University, the volume of information requested, alongside the costs which would be incurred in extracting, copying, collating and preparing the information for release, is considered manifestly unreasonable under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The information requested comprises in the region of 1200 sites. In order to provide a conservative estimate as to the time it would take to extract and copy the information, a number of small files i.e. those that contained up to five samples, were tested. It took an average of 11 minutes to copy the location and ancillary data for each site – this would equate to 11 minutes x 1200 sites, totalling 220 hours.

On this basis, the information is withheld under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

I can also advise that for many of the trees, corresponding to a file at the following link: http://chrono.qub.ac.uk/Resources/dendro_data/dendro.html, location details, including grid references, latitude/longitude, are not written down and, therefore, any data in this respect is not held. This is due to the fact that the sites are well known to the Queen's dendrochronology laboratory and the members of staff use only the name in their notes. Exact locations of trees concerned, with grid references, are, however, included in publications cited on the above website.

You may wish, however, to refocus your request and reduce its scope. Further assistance in this respect can be provided by contacting the Head of School, Professor Keith Bennett, by telephone on 028 9097 5140 or email at hos.gap@qub.ac.uk. Any refined request will be considered accordingly.

In providing this response, the University has fulfilled its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If you are dissatisfied with the response provided, please put your complaint in writing to me at the above address. If this fails to resolve the matter, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Troy
Registrar's Office