

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

18 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – REQUEST 1936**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 21 June 2019. You asked us for information related to a thesis entitled "*Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions*". Specifically you asked:

1. *How this thesis is searchable in the EThOS system if a copy does not exist?*
2. *Who uploaded the information about the thesis?*
3. *If it is verified that it doesn't exist can it be removed?*

We have considered your request, and can confirm that we hold a record in EThOS of the thesis but not the full file. The record was added in June 2015 by a member of staff in response to a user's speculative request for the thesis. We have a note on the EThOS record stating that the item is 'missing from university'. When an item is not held but a request for it is made the EThOS Admin Team will contact the institution to request a copy for digitisation and it is likely the institution who advised the copy was missing which has resulted in the note being placed on the record. The Admin Team also usually verifies requests to check they are valid thesis titles at the time of the request, however, the Library holds no documentary records of what checks were carried out in 2015.

For context, EThOS is a repository system designed to help institutions meet the expectations of the UK Research Councils that PhDs supported by a Research Council Training Grant should be made freely available in an open access repository. There are approximately 500,000 records relating to theses awarded by over 120 institutions. Around 260,000 of these also provide access to the full text thesis, either via download from the EThOS database or via links to the institution's own repository. Of the remaining 220,000 records dating back to at least 1800, three quarters are available to be ordered for scanning through the EThOS digitisation-on-demand facility.

The EThOS Admin Team have contacted the awarding institution, the London School of Economics (LSE), again who were unable to provide any further guidance but have advised you can contact them directly in relation to their records. Any request regarding the award itself or details as to the awarding institution's record would be more appropriately directed to LSE.

James Courthold

Information Compliance Manager

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THE BRITISH LIBRARY

96 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2DB

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THE WORLD'S KNOWLEDGE

In respect of your request to having the thesis entry removed from the EThOS database this would not fall under the scope of Freedom of Information law. However, the EThOS Admin team have confirmed that it will be removed once they have received permission from the university to do so.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

The Chief Executive  
The British Library  
96 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2DB

Please note, complaints and requests for internal review received more than two months after the initial decision will not be handled.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may appeal directly to the Information Commissioner at the address given below. You should do this within two months of our final decision. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Further information on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner's Office:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF

Telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45

Website <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely

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