

THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

PRESS RELEASE

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Transparency protects academic freedom

LfDI Dr. Stefan Brink calls for more transparency in third-party funding

Universities in Baden-Württemberg

On March 14, 2019, the Society for Freedom Rights (GFF) published the her commissioned report "University Industry Cooperation, Information access and freedom of science" by Prof. dr. Klaus F. Gärditz, owner of the Chair of Public Law at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University Bonn. Its conclusion is: "Cooperation between universities and industry endanger freedom of science and information".

The report examines the cooperation agreements of the University of Mainz the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, which is part of the Institute for Molecular Biology gGmbH (IMB) has 100 million euros available over a funding period of 10 years puts. In return for this cash injection, Boehringer Ingelheimer co-determination rights in the concrete research activity as well as in employment allow for conditions. The University of Mainz had refused to the end to disclose the cooperation agreements. Professor Gärditz and the company Society for Freedom Rights see this as a violation of the right to freedom of information.

Like many other freedom of information laws, the state freedom of information Baden-Württemberg Health Act (LIFG) an exception to comprehensive transparency rez for institutions with the task of independent scientific research and universities, as far as research, art, teaching, performance reviews and exams are affected. The legislator justifies this area exception because with the fact that "the regulation protects the freedom of art and science. Enjoy these

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a high level of protection.” (L-Reg LT-Drs. 15/7720, 5).

If you look at the regulation of the State Higher Education Act (§ 41a LGH BW).

once you take a closer look, you'll notice that transparency isn't far off. Access to

only the Rectorate and

the senate of the respective university and the Ministry of Science within

of legal supervision. The report submitted makes it clear that

restricted transparency endangers academic freedom in this area in particular

and not strengthening.

Therefore, the State Commissioner for Freedom of Information, Dr. Stefan Brink, the

Global exception in favor of largely non-transparent third-party funding and

remove research cooperation from the LIFG and replace it with science-specific

to replace cal exemptions. This serves both to protect knowledge

corporate freedom as well as the strengthening of the required transparency of every university funding

change.

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