



18 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00385

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 13 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

How much did it cost to produce the review of 'support' for students in light of COVID-19 published yesterday? This should include all associated costs and include the calculated cost of staff hours spent on the report.

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds the information relevant to your request.

In April 2020 we announced that we were making available funding of up to £44m to support costed extensions of up to 6 months to final year doctoral students whose research has been impacted by COVID-19. The review involved significant engagement with key stakeholders including students, grant holders and university leaders and managers – full details of this can be found on page 7 of the [Review of Extensions for Students Impacted by COVID-19](#)¹ report. The review was used in developing our case for additional £19 million funding announced in November 2020 and in the design of our policy, for example in how we have asked universities to prioritise allocation of the funding.

The total cost to produce the review was £69,257.10. A breakdown of the core elements is provided below.

NatCen commissioned focus groups*	£58,800.00
Editorial and production of report publication	£2970.00
Staff time**	£7,487.10
Total	£69,257.10

* NatCen where commissioned to undertake consultation with a representative group of UKRI funded students through focus groups as part of the review. Their UKRI Covid-19 Student Consultation Final report is available on [the UKRI website](#)².

**We have calculated the cost of staff time by multiplying the relevant hourly rates by the time spent undertaking the review and writing the report.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@ukri.org

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/UKRI-11112020-ReviewOfExtensionsForStudentsImpactedByCovid-19.pdf>


² <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/UKRI-11112020-NatCenUKRICovid-19StudentConsultation.pdf>

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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