



[Redacted]

12 December 2022

Dear [Redacted]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00369**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 11 November in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am asking for this information under the Freedom of Information Act.*

- 1. On what grounds are you giving Envigo, an American company operating in the UK, British tax payers money amounting to almost £700 000.*
- 2. What EXACTLY is this money to be used for? Nutritional diet supplies? Please explain why anyone would be allocated public money for this.*
- 3. Did you not take into account when awarding this money that a) Envigo is an extremely wealthy company that does not need UK tax payers money b) that you are funding a company with an horrific record in animal mistreatment which led to their facility in Virginia being shut down and 4000 Beagle dogs being rehomed.*
- 4. How will you monitor the terms of the Grant?*
- 5. Will Envigo facilities be subject to inspection as a result of being given tax payers public money.*

**Our response**

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds some information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

This request relates to a contract awarded to Envigo. The contract is for the provision of diet for animals used for the purposes of research in UKRI laboratories in the UK, over the course of the next 5 years, to a maximum value of up to £690K, excluding VAT. This is not a grant, nor does it relate to a research project or programme.

- 1. On what grounds are you giving Envigo, an American company operating in the UK, British tax payers money amounting to almost £700 000.*

A contract for the provision of animal diet was awarded following a competitive procurement process conducted under [Public Contracts Regulations \(2015\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/102/contents/made).<sup>1</sup> Further information around these regulations and public procurement policy can be found at the following link: [Public procurement policy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-sector-procurement-policy).<sup>2</sup>

- 2. What EXACTLY is this money to be used for? Nutritional diet supplies? Please explain why anyone would be allocated public money for this.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/102/contents/made>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-sector-procurement-policy>

The contract is for the provision of diet for animals used for the purposes of research in UKRI laboratories in the UK. For your subsequent query it should be noted that this is a request for opinion or commentary, not information held by UKRI, and therefore is outside the scope of FOI.

3. *Did you not take into account when awarding this money that a) Envigo is an extremely wealthy company that does not need UK tax payers money b) that you are funding a company with an horrific record in animal mistreatment which led to their facility in Virginia being shut down and 4000 Beagle dogs being rehomed.*

The contract for the provision of animal diet was awarded following a competitive procurement process conducted under Public Contracts Regulations (2015). For your subsequent query it should be noted that this is a request for opinion or commentary, not information held by UKRI, and therefore is outside the scope of FOI.

4. *How will you monitor the terms of the Grant?*

This is not a grant. It is a contract for the provision of animal diet. The contract will be monitored to ensure that the requirements as specified in the contract have been met.

5. *Will Envigo facilities be subject to inspection as a result of being given tax payers public money.*

There is no requirement for UKRI to inspect Envigo facilities. Envigo have been contracted to provide animal diet only. The contract will be monitored to ensure that the requirements as specified in the contract have been met.

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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@ukri.org)

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: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.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,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
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