



[REDACTED]

21 January 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00537

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 22 December in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Could you please provide the minutes and/or summaries of the meetings held by UKRI's new forum on bullying and harassment in research and innovation - <https://www.ukri.org/news/new-forum-for-tackling-bullying-and-harassment/>

Please also include the names and affiliations of all of those who have attended the various meetings held by the group and its sub-groups, including the dates of the meetings.

Please also provide any policy document created by the forum.

Our response:

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

The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

UKRI convenes and Chairs the cross-sector Forum for Tackling Bullying and Harassment in Research and Innovation. In this capacity, UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to summary minutes, attendance of and policy documents is in the public interest.

The information requested is being prepared for publication and is being done so in line with a carefully considered timetable that requires it is suitably formatted and presented in the correct context before being released to the public. It is also necessary to ensure that proper consideration has been given to the information by relevant parties, including Forum members, prior to its public release.

UKRI has therefore determined that it is not in the public interest to release information ahead of the existing publication schedules as this would place undue pressure and burden on the organisation and Forum members to prepare the information for release earlier than anticipated. This information is expected to be available during February 2022, when it will be published on the [Forum's webpage](#)¹.

The Forum is committed to transparency and dialogue with its communities and, as part of this commitment, we continue to explore how best to update the sector on Forum discussions and activities to ensure continuous sharing and dissemination of learning and practice across organisations. As such, it is intended that the publication of meeting summaries will be an ongoing and regular feature of the Forum.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/bullying-and-harassment/forum-for-tackling-bullying-and-harassment/>

It is anticipated that the published summary minutes will include the attendance of the meetings, dates each meeting took place and Terms of Reference. Currently, there have been no policy documents created by the Forum, however it is expected that any created in the future will be published to the Forum's webpage when ready.

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

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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