



[REDACTED]

13 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00233**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 16 March in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Thank you again for your earlier correspondence regarding the SSRC Technical Reports by Gordon Pask and collaborators.*

*I have since been able to locate the reports at the British Library. The library has confirmed that digitisation is possible, but only on a paid basis. I attach their initial price estimate below for ease of reference.*

*As these reports are publicly funded commissioned research outputs, I would like to enquire whether ESRC/UKRI would be willing to arrange or cover the cost of digitising the British Library copies. If this is not something that can be considered informally, please also treat this email as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for any recorded information you hold concerning:*

- 1. any policy, practice, or precedent on supporting access to legacy SSRC/ESRC commissioned research reports held externally; and*
- 2. any previous arrangements for funding or facilitating digitisation or duplication of such materials for research purposes.*

*By way of context, our working group is engaged in a scholarly effort to digitise the bibliography of the prominent British cybernetician Gordon Pask (1928–1996), with the aim of making these materials more accessible to researchers.*

*The reports in question are relevant to an ongoing scientific study within our group on the history of cybernetics and artificial intelligence, including the role of Pask's Conversation Theory in relating these fields. Considering the public interest in preservation and access, and the academic purpose of the project, I would also be grateful if ESRC/UKRI could consider waiving or covering the duplication costs in this instance.*

**Our response:**

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does not hold information relevant to your request.

As previously advised, although UKRI holds a very small collection of SSRC legacy records (in paper format), relating to funded applications of the era of interest (1970-79), they mostly consist of application and funding information. A search was run for any information relating to Gordon Pask Technical reports and the funding numbers you provided, however, this search returned no results. A search was also conducted of archive SSRC and ESRC material relating to this subject at [The National Archives](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)<sup>1</sup> which also produced no results. UKRI can therefore confirm that this information is not held.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

UKRI does not contribute to or cover the costs of duplication or digitisation of material that is not held by UKRI. We do not hold a specific policy about supporting access to legacy research reports held externally, nor have we previously made any arrangements for the funding of digitisation or duplication of such materials for research purposes.

## Your rights

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:


Head of Information Governance  
Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@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 procedure](#)<sup>2</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>