



[REDACTED]

16 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00096

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 18 March in which you requested the following:

Your request:

On 17 March 2022, ResearchFish tweeted that in response to criticism on Twitter, they report critical views of the firm to UKRI, who contracts ResearchFish for research assessment:

<https://twitter.com/researchfish/status/1504542085369712640?s=21>

- 1. Please provide all correspondence between ResearchFish and UKRI from the last 5 years relating to ResearchFish reporting on behaviour of researchers to UKRI based on their social media statements about ResearchFish. Please include at least a search for ResearchFish emails and the words 'Twitter' or 'social media' in correspondence to and from UKRI.*
- 2. Please provide any documents or databases that UKRI maintain on the public criticism of ResearchFish by researchers on social media, and if they exist, policies regarding their maintenance and use.*

Additional clarification received on 12 April 2022:

Thank you for your response. I would like to narrow the search parameters as you advise to several narrow searches which I hope produce a subset of the results I was intending to receive with my earlier request.

All emails to or from senders using the domain "researchfish.com" featuring any (not all) of the following keywords, since the start of 2019.

- 1: "oldnorthroad"*
- 2: "Greger_Larson"*
- 3: "WillBowden1"*
- 4: "CathNoakes"*
- 5: "DrLeonBlack"*
- 6: "bedcatalysis"*

Our response

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

Whilst conducting the original search for your request, the search parameters provided returned a high volume of email correspondence. Further investigation determined that this was due a significant number of staff using their Twitter handles within the email signatures, which our systems were unable to excluded through automated means. My apologies that this was not explained within the clarification request, and we have since improved the search parameters to target the information you have requested with greater accuracy.

Following receipt of your refined parameters we initiated new searches across our email systems. During the course of these searches, we identified that due to Interfolio's acquisition of Researchfish in 2019, much of the correspondence you have requested regarding the named individuals would have been exchanged with Interfolio, rather than "Researchfish.com".

We have therefore also included any emails to or from UKRI that include the domain "interfolio.com". The searches we conducted returned 14 search results and an additional review of correspondence that included "interfolio.com" added a further 45 results. After reviewing the correspondence to remove duplicates and emails from the same email chain, and those that are outside of the scope of your request, we identified six emails which are attached with this response.

Please note that some information has been redacted within the attached emails; whilst you have named individual accounts within your request, we have focused on the management of these tweets between UKRI and Researchfish/Interfolio. We consider that names and contact details of individuals as well as information relating to 3rd parties fall under the exemption at section 40(2) personal data. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this case, we believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that processing of personal data is lawful and fair.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and UKRI is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

In response to point 2 in your original request, UKRI does not hold any documents or maintain any databases on which we record public criticism of Researchfish by researchers on social media, and therefore this information is not held.

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: 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
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org