

[REDACTED]

22 April 2020

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00052

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 24 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

My request pertains to the research grant number EP/D050839/1 that was awarded to Brunel University by the EPSRC from 2006 to 2009. I would like to request an electronic copy of the detailed final report submitted by Brunel University to the EPSRC describing the work carried out and the way the resources were utilised in this grant please.

Our response

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

Please find attached with this letter the following documents:

- EPD0508391 Final report_Redacted
- 01. EPD0508391 LoS JLR_Redacted
- 02. EPD0508391 LoS Magnesium Elektron_Redacted
- 04. EPD0508391 LoS Innoval_Redacted
- 05. EPD0508391 LoS Wagon Automotive_Redacted
- 06. EPD0508391 LoS Rondol_Redacted

As noted in the Final Report, there is no "03. Letter of Support" as the organisation, Holton Machinery Ltd, was closed shortly after the start of this research project and therefore ceased to be a partner.

Please note that the following exemption has been applied to all documents:

Section 40 – Personal Information

We are exempting the names, addresses, and contact details of individuals that have not been published into the public domain under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Disclosing this information would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Please note that the following exemption has been applied to document, "EPD0508391 Final report_Redacted":

Section 41 – Information provided in confidence

We have determined that some of the information contained within the document you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. To explain further, if the information was released we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality. As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Please note that the following exemption has been applied to documents “EPD0508391 Final report_Redacted” and “01. EPD0508391 LoS JLR_Redacted”:

Section 43 – Commercially sensitive

We believe that some of the information contained within these documents falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

This is a qualified exemption, meaning that a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest outweighs the requirement for commercial confidentiality.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- The document requested contains commercially sensitive information such as cost and schedule information, and breakdowns of project partners' funding contributions which were disclosed to UKRI in confidence. The agreement we have with project partner organisations is that we will not release any confidential information without their permission.
- Releasing information provided in confidence to UKRI is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential when held by UKRI.
- Breaching the commercial interest may also adversely affect future negotiation opportunities for UKRI. UKRI may be seen as a 'confidentiality' risk if it routinely releases information relating to business arrangements into the public domain, particularly where this is third party information
- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we and engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure; therefore, the information is exempt from disclosure.

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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