



[REDACTED]

12 December 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/01123

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 23 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I understand RRS James Cook was used for filming a TV drama in October 2024 in Cardiff Bay.

Please provide the following information:

- 1) The agreement with the TV production company for this filming.*
- 2) Any correspondence between 15 September 2024 and 30 October 2024 relating to the filming (either internal correspondence or correspondence between NERC and the production company).*
- 3) The length of the filming on RRS James Cook.*

Our response:

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

- 1) The agreement with the TV production company for this filming.*

This information is not held by UKRI or NERC.

To explain further, the [National Oceanography Centre](https://noc.ac.uk/)¹ (NOC) is responsible for operating the [RRS James Cook](https://noc.ac.uk/facilities/ships/rrs-james-cook)², therefore the organisation of the filming and the agreement to which you are referring was administered and implemented by NOC.

This was separate to the NERC 'Explore our Planet' showcase which took place in the few days before the filming, but did involve ITV News filming onboard on the evening of Friday 18 October.

- 2) Any correspondence between 15 September 2024 and 30 October 2024 relating to the filming (either internal correspondence or correspondence between NERC and the production company).*

No correspondence is held for the period 15 September 2024 to 30 October 2024 relating to the filming, however, reference is made in a '2024/2025 Marine Facilities Programme update' paper for the NERC Cruise Programme Executive Board meeting held on 10 October 2024.

¹ <https://noc.ac.uk/>

² <https://noc.ac.uk/facilities/ships/rrs-james-cook>

This update reads: *“Following the showcase, NOC have secured a charter in Cardiff Bay with Bad Wolf Productions using the James Cook as a set for a new BBC environmental drama. The crew will remain onboard for filming from Cardiff to Southampton.”*

3) *The length of the filming on RRS James Cook.*

This information is not held. We recommend contacting NOC for further details.

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

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 procedure](#)³.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

³ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>