



[REDACTED]

9 December 2020

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00131

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 13 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I wish to request the following information:

1. *All email correspondence between Professor William Powrie (University of Southampton) and EPSRC, related to grant: EP/K03765X/1, 'Track Systems For High Speed Railways: Getting It Right'. Only information dated prior to the grant start date is required*
2. *All internal EPSRC emails related to the submission and panel selection for EP/K03765X/1*

I do not require any confidential information related to research proposals or their reviews. Instead I am requesting information related to the submission process and handling of these submissions.

Our response:

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

The start date of the grant EP/K03765X/1 was 28th February 2014. As you have noted in your request, only information prior to this date is required. It is, therefore, important to be aware that before December 2015 EPSRC used a document management system called "ArchiveOne" to archive its emails.

The "ArchiveOne" system was decommissioned on 1 November 2019, as the package was no longer supported. In order for any emails that were archived using "ArchiveOne" to be retained, they had to be manually transferred to the replacement Microsoft Office 365 system. Consequently, UKRI may no longer hold all emails that were dated prior to December 2015 as not all emails were transferred.

1. *All email correspondence between Professor William Powrie (University of Southampton) and EPSRC, related to grant: EP/K03765X/1, 'Track Systems For High Speed Railways: Getting It Right'. Only information dated prior to the grant start date is required*

In conducting our searches for this information, we used the email address recorded on our Siebel System for Professor William Powrie, which should have been used for all correspondence related to this grant. These searches returned no results for any email correspondence between Professor William Powrie (University of Southampton) and EPSRC prior to the grant start date of 28th February 2014; therefore, this information is not held.

2. *All internal EPSRC emails related to the submission and panel selection for EP/K03765X/1*

In conducting our searches for this information, the parameters 'EP/K03765X/1' and 'Track Systems For High Speed Railways: Getting It Right' were used to identify emails that may be considered to be in scope.

We also determined that as your request is for emails relating to the submission and panel selection for grant EP/K03765X/1 only, that once the grant had been announced, which happened at an [Engineering Prioritisation Meeting on 25 June 2013](#)¹ the grant was no longer considered a submission and the panel selection process had been concluded.

All emails held and considered within scope of your request can be found within the attached Zip file "FOI2020_00131".

We are exempting personal information, including the names, initials and contact details, of individuals 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

In addition, some information contained within the documents "*Chair PFD*", "*FW%3A Panel Convenor Tool Issue*" and "*FW_Weekly Update – Examine and Initials Reviews*" relating to other applications has been redacted as we consider these to fall outside the scope of your request and it does not relate to grant EP/K03765X/1. As the majority of these redactions relate to unfunded applications, they fall under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. To explain further, organisations apply to EPSRC in confidence and with the expectation that their bid information, including project research areas, principle investigator and reference numbers will be kept in confidence and only published if their bid is successful. 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.

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,


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

¹ <https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewGrant.aspx?GrantRef=EP/K03765X/1>