

[REDACTED]

9 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00042**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 2 February and your email to the Communications team received on 5 February in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am looking for some assistance with your organisation's Spend/Transparency data, available on the following weblink:*

*<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/transparency/>*

*There appears to be no file available for the month of November 2020. Could you advise when the file will be made available to view online? Would it be possible for you to email me a copy of the November 2020 file please and thank you?*

**Our response**

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

We note that we received an additional request on 5 February 2021 for the same information in relation to Research England. We informed you that we would aggregate both requests and respond under one reference: FOI2021/00042. Please note that all research councils, Innovate UK and Research England have been brought together under UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as of April 2018. As this is the case, your two requests have been collated into a single request under UKRI.

In our response to your previous requests (reference FOI2020/00418, dated 04 December 2020 and FOI2021/00003 dated 6 January) we indicated the timeframes for publishing the information requested, which has now been published to the link as noted in your request. Subsequently data for November 2020 will be published to the same link at the end of February 2021, and therefore the information you have requested is intended for future publication.

Consequently, this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

**Public interest in favour of disclosure**

- UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to our expenditure is in the public interest and there is a general public interest in favour of the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness.
- There is also a public interest in ensuring the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

**Public interest in favour of withholding the information**

- The data is currently being collated and reviewed. We are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.
- We consider that premature release would give a misleading impression of UKRI's spending and would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes.

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate 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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto: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  
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