



[REDACTED]

19 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00312

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 22 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

For the NERC independent research fellowships with a closing date in 2019, please would you tell me:

*The number of applicants who were female
The number of applicants who were male*

Our response

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

The number of applicants for the NERC Independent Research Fellowships from the 2019 call:

- who were female was 40
- who were male was 85

Please note, that for counts of five and greater, all numbers have been rounded to the nearest multiple of five.

The number of applicants who did not disclose their gender is being withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to protect anonymity, as the number of applicants relates to fewer than five. Section 40(2) FOIA is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test. This information is also being withheld as 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 of lawfulness, fairness and transparency.

The recently published [open letter](#)¹ from Professor Susan Waldron, Director, Research and Skills for NERC, on the NERC website may also be of relevance to you as this addressed concerns regarding gender equality.

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.

¹ <https://nerc.ukri.org/latest/news/nerc/open-letter-in-response-to-the-outcomes-of-the-independent-research-fellowship-2019/>

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
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