

[REDACTED]

5 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00602

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 8 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am submitting a Freedom of Information Request for the minutes of the meeting of the Astronomy and Cosmology Sub-Panel of the DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee for the 2022 call for proposals in which the rankings and resource allocation recommendations took place and the discussion of the proposals. This probably took place in early 2023.

I also request the minutes of the Main RAC Panel Meeting for the same call, in which the resource allocations and/or rankings were decided for the Astronomy and Cosmology proposals.

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information below and attached in files "*DiRAC RAC15 Asro Sub Panel Minutes - 25 January 2023 - Final_Redacted*" and "*DiRAC RAC15 Main Panel Meeting Minutes - 10 March 2023 - Final_Redacted*".

We are exempting the names and personal information of individuals who are not publicly listed as members of the Astronomy and Cosmology or Particle Physics/Nuclear Theory Sub-Panels of the DiRAC Resource Allocation Committees 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 UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

In addition, we have also determined that some of the information contained within the minutes you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence.

To explain further, the members of the DiRAC Resource Allocation Committees hold an expectation of confidentiality when it comes to the views and opinions that they provide during resource allocation meetings. Furthermore, organisations apply for resource allocations in confidence and with the expectation that their proposal information, including feedback, score and ranking will be kept confidential. Information has been redacted where it would reveal specific details about an application that is not already available in the public domain. If this information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Please note that in the Attendees list for the Astronomy and Cosmology Sub-Panel meeting, Dr Katy Cough is listed as University of Oxford. This is incorrect and should read Queen Mary University of London.

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 within the next 40 working days:

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 policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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