



[REDACTED]

14 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00205**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 15 April in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am seeking information on employees who undertake paid or unpaid work whilst under your organisation's employ. In relation to the individuals listed below I would like to know:*

- 1. How many currently undertake or have ever undertaken work of any kind second to their current role?*
- 2. Whether that work is/was paid, unpaid, or unpaid with expenses covered.*
- 3. Whether approval to undertake the work was sought from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy?*

*Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser  
Professor Christopher Smith  
Professor Melanie Welham  
Professor Alison Park  
Professor Lynn Gladden  
Dr Ian Campbell  
Professor Fiona Watt  
Professor Duncan Wingham  
David Sweeney  
Professor Mark Thomson  
Sir John Kingman  
Siobhan Peters  
Tim Bianek  
Emma Lindsell  
Isobel Stephen*

**Our response**

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

Under Section 21 of the FOIA - Information already reasonably accessible, some of the information you have requested is already available in the public domain. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

The information in relation to questions 1 and 2 of your request is published in the conflicts of interest registers available [here](#).<sup>1</sup> Conflicts of interest registers are published for the Board and Executive Committee for the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/our-structure/conflicts-of-interests/#contents-list>

periods 2018/2019 up to 2020/2021. Information for the individuals in your list can be found in the Executive Committee conflicts of interest register, except for Sir John Kingman, whose details are in the UKRI Board conflicts of interest register. Please note that Dr Ian Campbell is no longer employed by UKRI.

The information for those on your list who recently took up new appointments with UKRI, such as, Professor Alison Park and Tim Bianek will be published in the conflicts of interest register for 2021/2022. Taking this into account, we have therefore determined that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. 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 transparency and openness with regard to public appointments and the holding of additional roles by public appointees and senior staff is in the public interest.
- There is also a public interest in ensuring the accountability of public organisations and the declaration of any conflicts of interest in the positions and roles held by senior appointees.

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

- The information for the 2021/2022 conflict of interest register 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 the declaration of appointments process and would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes.
- It would not be reasonable/fair to release this information prior to the registers being verified as accurate and up to date.

We have therefore determined that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. UKRI aims to publish the information very soon and this information will be available on the above cited weblink.

In relation to question 3, all the individuals on your list are expected to declare their interests on the conflict of interests register published by UKRI. For public appointments, approval from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) would be sought for those individuals on your list, except for the roles held by Tim Bianek, Isobel Stephen and Emma Lindsell which are not public appointments.

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,



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Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
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