



[REDACTED]

13 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations request: EIR2022/00141

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulations request received on the 12 April in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to know the amount spent on carbon offset measures by UK Research and Innovation for the past 5 years, broken down by year from May to April, as well as what types of carbon offset were purchased - such as planting trees, switching to a renewable energy source, cycle to work scheme, upgraded building windows to improve heat efficiency etc.

E.g.

May 2021 - April 2022

£450,000 spent on carbon offset measures - these measures included planting 10,000 trees, introducing a walk to work scheme and investing in direct air capture technology

May 2020 - April 2021

£250,000 spent on carbon offset measures - these measures included planting 8,000 trees and building solar panels

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold the information relevant to your request.

Carbon offsetting is defined by the [UN_REDD programme](#)¹ as, 'the process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing credits from others through emissions reductions projects, or carbon trading schemes'.

Measures such as adding solar panels or investing in a cycle to work scheme are not considered by UKRI to be 'carbon offsetting measures', and therefore UKRI has not spent any funds on carbon offsetting measures according to the definition outlined above.

We can however provide information on UKRI's carbon reduction targets and sustainability strategy, which includes our aim for UKRI to become net zero for our own operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040; these can be found on [page 98 of the Annual Report 2020-2021](#)² and the [UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#)³. The annual Report and Accounts for 21-22 is expected to be published in June of this year with updated information on UKRI Environmental Sustainability activity and performance information.

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:

¹ <https://www.un-redd.org/glossary/carbon-offset#>.

² <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/UKRI-200721-AnnualReport2020-2021.pdf>

³ <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UKRI-050920-SustainabilityStrategy.pdf>

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: 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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