



[REDACTED]

9 December 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00373**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 16 November in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Hello, I'd like to make a Freedom of Information request about information which is reference in the below screenshot. This comes from a document used in a High Court case in 2009 when 1,011 nuclear test veterans attempted to sue the Ministry of Defence for criminal negligence. As you will see from para 411, it states that Prof H John Evans a former director of the Medical Research Council, wrote a letter to Dr David James also of the MRC on January 24, 1984. He refers to having blood samples sent to MRC for analysis, the analysis was delayed, and then later carried out showing chromosomal abnormalities in some of the subjects.*

*My request is for:*

- 1. A copy of this letter, in its entirety*
- 2. Details of how many blood samples were received by Prof Evans at MRC about a year before this letter was written, in what format they were held (specimen tubes, on ice, on slides), and what subsequently happened to them, ie are they retained or destroyed, and if so, when, where and on whose instructions.*
- 3. Any documents the MRC holds about the results of the chromosomal analysis that was undertaken, and to whom copies may have been provided.*
- 4. If possible, and within the cost limits, an indication of whether the subjects of these tests were informed of the results.*

**Our response**

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

In question 1 you have requested a copy of a letter from Prof H John Evans to Dr David James dated January 24, 1984. The letter is accessible from the National Archives, information on how to access the file can be found in the [catalogue](#)<sup>1</sup>.

As this information is in the public domain, we consider that Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA would apply and have provided the relevant reference and link below. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test

UKRI does not hold information relating to questions 2, 3 and 4 of your request, however information may be available in The National Archive file.

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<sup>1</sup> FD23/4639, <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C6109023>

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)

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](http://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,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
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