



[REDACTED]

22 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00137

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

Your request:

Thanks for the further clarification.

So this means, just so I am clear, that you are formally reporting that you do not have minutes, summaries or additional records associated with the two meetings in 20218 referenced in your response to my request as follows;

A workshop was convened in October 2018 for researchers working in related fields as AHRC was investigating the appetite and scope for research in the area of modern slavery and human rights, partly with an aim to develop a bid to the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund. There were 12 delegates from academia with 4 representatives from AHRC.

This was followed by a second workshop in November 2018 including non-academic stakeholders from arts, media, business, non-governmental organisations, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office. The consortium was formed from the various attendees of these workshops who expressed an interest and availability in taking part in the Policy and Evidence Centre on Human Rights and Modern Slavery in line with the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund timeline.

Or do you actually hold these documents (and the level of detail in your response suggests that you do have something on file), and have determined that these documents should be withheld. If this is fact the case I would ask that you clarify the legal grounds on which a decision to withhold has been made. This is not a peer review process, where I understand that reports by reviewers may sometimes be withheld from FOI.

I would have anticipated that the documents associated with these two meetings would have fallen under the rubric of my original request, but if you do not understand my previous request in this way can you now please take this email as a follow up FOI request which specifically asks for primary documentation associated with these two meetings and associated email correspondence regarding how and why specific people were invited to these meetings to be shared.

I believe this information is in the public interest and will be used for research purposes.

Our response

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

With regard to the meetings held in October and November 2018 we can confirm that UKRI does not hold formal minutes or reports of these meetings. However, we do hold some information which we consider falls within scope of your request for *'primary documentation associated with these two meetings'*. This includes:

- An informal draft of personal meeting notes of the October 2018 workshop, provided as *'FOI2024/00137 Modern Slavery Discussion Workshop [Redacted] notes_v2'*.
- Informal draft notes prepared ahead of the October 2018 workshop, provided as document *'FOI2024/00137 HR-MS content'*.
- Email correspondence discussing the outputs of the workshops and participation, provided as document *'FOI2024/00137 RE_SPF bid – Human Rights and Modern Slavery'*.

We can confirm that UKRI does not hold any further information in relation to these workshops. The information we are providing was intended for internal use and reflects internal draft notes prepared ahead of and following the October 2018 workshop, with communications with participants after the workshop. This information should not be taken to represent the final position or the sum total of evidence that informed the bid proposal.

Information relating to names and contact details has been withheld under section 40(2) personal data of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this case, we believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that processing of personal data is lawful and fair.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and UKRI is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the 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 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,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org