



[REDACTED]

22 July 2020

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00216

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 20 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am making this request under the freedom of information act to ask for the following information:

1. *Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of all PHD funded studentships offered by the seven research councils you represent*
2. *For each of the following five academic years: a) 2015/16 b) 2016/17 c) 2017/18 d) 2018/19 e) 2019/20*

Our response:

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

Under Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA the information you have requested for academic years 2014/15 to 2018/19 is already available in the public domain and can be found on UKRI's [diversity data](#)¹ page.

The data can be downloaded as an Excel file from this page, or can be accessed via interactive [Tableau dashboards](#)² (external website). Instructions for how to use the dashboards are available in the first tab on the left at the top of the page under 'Guidance'.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

The information you have requested for academic year 2019/20 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.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to funded studentships is in the public interest. However, the data is still incomplete and 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 have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. This information is likely to be available in the early part of 2021, but we do not have a more specific date at this time.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-data/>

² https://public.tableau.com/profile/uk_research_and_innovation.ukri#!/vizhome/EDIfundingdata/Awardrate?publish=yes

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 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: <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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