UK Research and Innovation

[redacted]

23 September 2026

Dear [redacted]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00638

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 27 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Please provide the total amount UKRI has spent on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), equality, diversity and inclusion, and related activities for each of the last five financial years, broken down by year.

Please include, where held:

staff costs
training
consultancy
external contracts
campaigns, events, and publications
grants or programme spending specifically designated for DEI-related work.

If possible, please also provide any internal budgets, spending lines, or programme names used to classify this expenditure.

Our response

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

In your request you have asked for UKRI's total spend over the last five years on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). UKRI has a central Workforce EDI team and the associated costs can be found below:

Table 1: UKRI EDI costs 2021/22 to 2025/26

Financial Year	Workforce EDI Team Employer Staff Costs *	Training, Consultancy & Memberships **	Staff Networks	Total Non-Pay Expenditure
2021/22	£13,948.85	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2022/23	£204,670.25	£65,174.00	£3,176.75	£68,350.75
2023/24	£425,955.57	£99,855.00	£3,605.74	£103,460.74
2024/25	£448,576.08	£212,432.04	£3,268.42	£215,700.46
2025/26	£547,442.95	£72,079.27	£2,545.00	£74,624.27

* Employer staff costs include salary and associated employer employment costs, employer National Insurance contributions and employer pension contributions relating to the UKRI Workforce EDI Team.

** UKRI do not hold a separate breakdown of expenditure for training, consultancy and memberships.

While UKRI have a central team for EDI, individual councils and institutes also undertake EDI related activities. These activities are not included in the above figures and we have estimated that the cost of providing this information for the whole organisation would exceed the appropriate statutory limit as specified within Section 12 of the FOIA which for UKRI is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of 18 hours of staff resource on locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide a response addressing EDI related activities, each council and institute would need to review activities undertaken over the last five years and assess whether they fall within the scope of EDI-related expenditure. As EDI responsibilities often form only part of an individual's role this adds to the difficultly in consistently identifying and quantifying relevant costs. Taking these factors into account, we have estimated that determining the information held and extracting it would exceed the Section 12 cost limit. Consequently, UKRI is not obliged under Section 12 of the FOIA to process this section of your request further/respond to your request.

To try and assist you further UKRI has previously responded to requests relating to EDI activities which were narrower in scope. You can find our past responses on UKRI's disclosure log[1].

You may also find it helpful to use UKRI's Gateway to Research (GtR)[2] service. GTR provides details of funded projects and may assist you in identifying research that relates to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) activities. GtR can be searched to access project summaries and other information about the research being funded.

Your rights

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

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 procedure[3].

Yours sincerely,

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

[1] https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/
[2] https://gtr.ukri.org/
[3] https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target