



[REDACTED]

26 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00182**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 5 March in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*How much did the independent investigation in response to an open letter from the Secretary of State cost.*

*I am referring to the investigation mentioned here: [https://x.com/UKRI\\_News/status/1765016484462379456?s=20](https://x.com/UKRI_News/status/1765016484462379456?s=20)*

*Please provide a total cost and, if you wish, you may provide a breakdown of costs.*

**Our response:**

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

For clarity, UKRI conducted an investigation into the full set out issues raised by the Secretary of State in her letter. We do not hold a breakdown of costs associated with the different aspects of the concerns that were expressed.

The total cost to UKRI of conducting this independent investigation was £23,280, inclusive of VAT. This consists of the following:

- £12,500 + VAT for the investigation
- £6,900 + VAT for external legal counsel

Additional work on the investigation was conducted by UKRI staff, in addition to, or as part of their existing roles. Staff time relating to this activity was not tracked, therefore UKRI do not hold information on other costs associated with the investigation.

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](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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