



[REDACTED]

17 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00033

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 1 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am writing to submit an information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please could you provide me with the following information:

- 1. Can you provide me with a full list of all the non-NHS healthcare benefits that is provided to the UKRI workforce?*
- 2. A UKRI website indicates the provision of Benenden Healthcare benefits - <https://epsr.ukri.org/about/vacancies/benefits/>. In addition, UKRI has advertised job roles with their adverts stating there is a Benenden Healthcare benefit provision. So, please could you provide me with the following information:*
 - a. Total cost of the provision of Benenden Healthcare benefits for each of the following financial years:*
 - i. 2018-19*
 - ii. 2019-20*
 - iii. 2020-21*
 - b. Total number of UKRI staff in receipt of a Benenden Healthcare benefit for the following financial years:*
 - i. 2018-19*
 - ii. 2019-20*
 - iii. 2020-21, and*
 - iv. As at 31 January 2022*

If you are not able to provide me with information about the total number of staff in receipt of the Benenden Healthcare benefit in the above financial years, then tell me what the numbers were on 31 March 2019, 31 March 2020, 31 March 2021 and 31 January 2022.

Our response:

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

1. Can you provide me with a full list of all the non-NHS healthcare benefits that is provided to the UKRI workforce?

- Flu vaccination for employees not able to obtain the vaccination under current NHS 'at risk groups'
- Eye examination costs and contribution for spectacles for all DSE users once every two years

- Health Screening is available to some employees. There is a variable level of provision subject to an individual's terms and conditions
- Benenden Health Care membership subject to an individual's terms and conditions (~25% of workforce)

2. A UKRI website indicates the provision of Benenden Healthcare benefits - <https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/vacancies/benefits/>. In addition, UKRI has advertised job roles with their adverts stating there is a Benenden Healthcare benefit provision.

This benefit was listed in error as being available to those joining EPSRC and in any UKRI advertised job roles. It has not been available to new employees since 1 April 2018. New employees to individual research councils are now recruited onto UKRI terms and the Benenden Healthcare membership is not available to those recruited onto UKRI terms and conditions. We have taken action for this listing to be removed from the website.

- a. Total cost of the provision of Benenden Healthcare benefits for each of the following financial years:
- 2018-19
 - 2019-20
 - 2020-21

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, Information already reasonably accessible, this information is already available from the [UKRI Financial Transparency Data](#)¹. This data includes all UKRI spending since its formation in April 2018. For each individual month, a CSV spreadsheet can be downloaded, from which 'Supplier' (column F) can be filtered to identify payments made to "Benenden Healthcare Society".

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

- b. Total number of UKRI staff in receipt of a Benenden Healthcare benefit for the following financial years:
- 2018-19
 - 2019-20
 - 2020-21, and
 - As at 31 January 2022

Table 1: Staff in receipt of Benenden Healthcare benefit

Date	Number of Staff
31 March 2019	2458
31 March 2020	2375
31 March 2021	2238
As at 31 January 2022	2075

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/>

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/what-we-do/financial-data/>

Yours sincerely,



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