

[REDACTED]

24 October 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00877**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 28 September in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Please can you disclose, preferably by PDF, a copy of any current induction material related to keeping hard copies of media etc. due to unavailability, or restricted availability, of streaming services/other internet-provided entertainment media on Antarctica.*

**Our response**

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

The following information has been extracted from the “*IT Guide for Antarctic Stations and Ships*”:

*“Personal Devices:*

*Each station and ship have a number of computers available for general use.*

*If you are bringing a personal device such as a laptop, tablet or mobile phone, ensure it is updated before you leave.*

*The LEO satellite trial is bringing a lot of fast-moving changes to how internet is consumed on a personal device on station or ship.*

*You will receive clear instructions on how to connect your device to the network on your arrival.*

*Do not be surprised to see any of the following:*

- *Separate Wi-Fi networks for personal devices.*
- *A captive portal for accessing the internet, similar to using guest Wi-Fi at hotels.*
- *One device per person connected to the internet at a time.*
- *Limited daily download limits.*
- *Periods of peak usage causing inconsistent service.*
- *‘WhatsApp only’ if falling back to VSAT internet.*
- *The network is monitored for misuse and illegal activity.*

*Please supply your own storage/backup media such as external disks and USB sticks.*

*Ensure to bring any relevant USB dongles or adaptors. Collaborator and third-party computers that need to access the local IT systems, will require a security check by the local IT representative prior to connection.”*

There are also several references to recreation and limited access to internet found in the [Guide to Going South 2024](#)<sup>1</sup>

The following titles in particular are worth noting from the Guide to Going South:

- Page 11 - Music, films and books
- Page 17 - Internet
- Page 18 - Living on stations
- Page 19 - Recreation

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 for 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](#)<sup>2</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bas.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Guide-to-Going-South-2022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>