



[REDACTED]

31 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00254

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

Your request:

In an electronic format, please provide between 19 January 2025 and 28 February 2025 all emails regarding the International partnership: Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases between:

- 1) *eeid@bbsrc.ukri.org OR UKRI employee [REDACTED]*
- 2) *Email addresses ending in @nsf.gov, @nih.gov, @defra.gov.uk, @usda.gov, @bsf.org.il, or @nsfc.gov.cn*

Please also provide any appropriate context to the emails

Our response:

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

"FOI2025_00254 Annex 1_Redacted" contains emails exchanged between eeid@bbsrc.ukri.org or [REDACTED] (BBSRC Head of Strategy Integrated Understanding of Health) and email addresses ending in the domains you have indicated, with the exception of email addresses ending @usda.gov, of which none are held.

Three of these emails include attachments. "FOI2025_00254 Annex 2_Redacted" contains two attachments relating to the EEID Panel 1 and 2 agendas, copies of which were included in emails sent on 17 and 10 February.

We are exempting the release of two attachments containing details of EEID 2025 Panellists, which were part of emails sent on 17 January and 17 February, under Section 40(2) of the FOIA.

We are also exempting the release of attachments relating to the EEID Panel 1 and 2 discussion orders, from emails of the same dates, under both Section 40(2) and Section 41 of the FOIA. Further details of these exemptions are included below.

Section 40(2), personal information

We are exempting the names and contact details of individuals, as well as dates and times of individual's availability, under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Disclosing this information would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Section 41, information provided in confidence

We have determined that information relating to Zoom meeting links, contact information of the U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) travel management contractor and details of applicants to the [International partnership: Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases](#)¹ (EEID) funding opportunity fall under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence.

To explain further, the Zoom meeting links and contact information of NSF's travel management contractor were distributed in confidence, with the expectation that this would not be shared externally. If the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

In addition, organisations and individuals apply for funding in confidence and with the expectation that their bid information, including details of their applications, will be kept in confidence. Competition guidance states that if applications are successful that their information will be published. It is therefore implied that all organisations can confidently apply for funding and their information will be kept confidential unless they are successful. As funding decisions have not yet been made for the EEID competition, all application details are still held with this expectation of confidentiality.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

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](#)².

Yours sincerely,


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

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/international-partnership-ecology-and-evolution-of-infectious-diseases/>

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