UK Research and Innovation

█████████████████████████

13 February 2023

Dear ████████,

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00028

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

Your request:

SECURITY / CYBER SECURITY Insurance
Does your organisation currently have cyber insurance or plan to invest in cyber insurance in the next 12 months?
If you have cyber insurance who is the policy with?
If you have cyber insurance when does the policy come up for renewal?
If you have cyber insurance what is the cost of your current policy or renewal?

Our response

We note that you sent the same request to several research councils; please note that all research councils, Innovate UK and Research England have been brought together under UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as of April 2018. As this is the case, all your requests have been collated into a single request under UKRI.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds the information you have requested under section 31(3) prejudice to the prevention and detection of crime.

Section 31(1)(a) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if it would be likely to prejudice the functions of law enforcement- the prevention and detection of crime. Section 31(3) provides an exclusion from the duty placed on a public authority such as UKRI to confirm or deny the existence of the information if the act of confirming or denying would itself result in damage to UKRI's cyber security systems and strategies. We believe that is the case in regard to your request.

Section 31(3) is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to a public interest test.

Factors in favour of confirming or denying if we hold relevant information.

- Confirming or denying whether we hold the relevant information would help foster transparency and accountability of UKRI.

- It would reassure the public about whether we have systems in place to protect UKRI's IT infrastructure.

- It would provide information about how effective UKRI's IT strategies are.

Factors against confirming or denying if we hold relevant information.

- Confirming or denying whether we hold the requested information would be likely to give cyber criminals insights into the strengths of UKRI's IT strategies and any potential weaknesses that may exist. This would increase the chances of cyberattacks.

- This would lead to increased vulnerability of UKRI's IT infrastructure and undermine the integrity of our systems by making UKRI more vulnerable to crime such as a malicious attack on UKRI's computer infrastructure and/or systems.

- There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping government or public authority computer systems secure, which would be served by neither confirming nor denying that the information is held.

We therefore consider that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying that information is held.

The fact section 31(3) of the FOIA has been cited should not be taken as an indication that the information you requested is or is not held by UKRI.

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

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 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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