



[REDACTED]

24 July 2024

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00594

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

Your request:

Thank you for providing me with this information.

1. I understand that the Full Economic Cost and Research Council Contribution columns refer to the money that was awarded (i.e. planned expenditure). The Full Economic Cost Expenditure and Research Council Contribution Expenditure columns refer to the money that was actually spent by the end of the project. The Paid To Date column refers to the amount of money that the EPSRC has currently paid towards the project, and therefore the Balance column is the difference between the incurred cost (Research Council Contribution Expenditure) and the amount actually paid (Paid To Date). Is that correct?

2. Based on the above assumption, I see that there was £80k FEC budgeted for equipment, but only £50k FEC spent. However, in the detailed expenditure report it shows that £29,994 + £27,605.10 + £21,654.30 + £720 = £79,973.40 was spent on equipment. Have I missed something?

3. I see that there was an exception cost of £29,973.40, but the details are not provided - what was this for?

4. There was £10,772.60 budgeted for travel and subsistence costs, but only £1,645.56 spent - Where is the rest allocated?

5. In the proposal, the "Other costs" category was broken down into £24,000 for consultancy, £40,000 for consumables and £1,500 for a computer. Please can I ask for a similar detailed summary in the expenditure? In particular, I'd like to know what the consultancy costs were allocated to.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

And can I please confirm whether two or three different researchers were employed on the project (I am not requesting any identifying details such as names, so this shouldn't be against GDPR guidelines; I only want to know the total number of different researchers employed).

Our response

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

Question 1

Your statement is correct; the paid to date figure is everything except the final payment, which is held until the reconciliation is completed.

Questions 2 & 3

Our systems require that the University report any equipment expenditure over £50k into Exceptions Equipment. The £29,973.40 figure was entered into Exceptions Equipment on the understanding it would be correctly reconciled under Directly incurred Equipment at reconciliation.

Question 4

Oxford reported expenditure of £1,645.56 in Travel & Subsistence, which leaves an underspend of £6,577.69. The reported Equipment expenditure of £79,973.40 leaves an underspend of £13.30 – this negative figure is offset against the remaining positive figures resulting in a final payment of £26,726.46.

Question 5

UKRI do not hold this information, the information we hold is as reported on the Final Expenditure Statement (FES), however UKRI reserve the right to check through the complete financial transactions of a grant on request.

In practice, we don't require a high-level of detail for reporting under Other Costs; Other Costs typically would include sundry consumables, which would include the costs you have mentioned, and are outlined in the initial proposal documents. This information should be held by University of Oxford.

Question 6

Regarding the second element of your question, there are a total of 3 researchers claimed for in the FES submitted to us.

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

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](#)¹.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>

foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org