



[REDACTED]

9 November 2020

[REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00361**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 24 October in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I hope you are well. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following.*

- 1. All research proposals and accompanying Gantt charts submitted to the Molecular and Cell Medicine Board since 2015, whose project title contains any of the following terms: "organ," "organs," "transplant," "transplants," "heart," "hearts," "lung," "lungs," "liver," "livers," "kidney," or "kidneys."*
- 2. All research proposals and accompanying Gantt charts from applications for the UK-China AMR Research Partnerships Initiative, submitted by Principal Investigators at the University of Sheffield.*
- 3. All research proposals and accompanying Gantt charts from applications for the UKRI-NSFC Joint Call: Understanding and Addressing Health and Social Challenges for Ageing in the UK and China, submitted by Principal Investigators at the University of Sheffield.*

**Our response**

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

The information you have requested at part 1 of your request for "All research proposals and accompanying Gantt charts" submitted to the Molecular and Cell Medicine Board containing the terms specified in your request falls under the exemption at section 41(1) of the FOIA information provided in confidence. As research organisations submit research applications in confidence, we consider their proposals and accompanying Gantt charts are exempt under Section 41 of the FOIA.

To explain further, applicants submit their proposals in confidence with the understanding that details of their application, including their scores will remain confidential. If released we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidence.

As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

For parts 2 and 3 of your request for "All research proposals and accompanying Gantt charts" submitted by principal investigators from the University of Sheffield, for the respective applications for the UK-China AMR Research Partnerships Initiative and the UKRI-NSFC Joint Call: Understanding and Addressing Health and Social Challenges for Ageing in the UK and China, I can neither confirm nor deny whether UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds the information you have requested.

Section 41(1) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if such disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence. Section 41(2) 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 an actionable breach of confidence. We believe that is the case in regard to your request.

The terms of the exemption in the FOIA mean that UKRI do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for us to reveal whether or not the information is held.

The fact section 41 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.

As part of our duty to advise and assist under the FOIA, we can inform you that it is possible to search for awarded applications under any of these schemes via [Gateway to research](#)<sup>1</sup>.

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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto: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/>

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://gtr.ukri.org/>