21 August 2024

Dear ███████,

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00671

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 25 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Maintenance free connection systems to replace bolted flange connections on wind turbines
Thanks for your reply.
I would be really interested in this report. It seems a strange investment of £120k by the taxpayer if the results cannot be shared. Can you check up on situation for me? I have emailed GMC Ltd with no reply.

[I am trying to find out more about a project shown below which I found listed in your Gateway to Research (GtR) website.

Maintenance free connection systems to replace bolted flange connections on wind turbines
Lead Participant: GMC Ltd
Total Grant: £120,307
Project Manager: Phil Jones
The project is shown as finishing May 2021, with yourself as project manager, so I assume there is now a report made available to UK companies.
I would very much like to see the report - can you send me a link to the report?]

Our response:

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

Innovate UK (IUK) do not request a final outcome report for funded projects, but instead currently require most projects to complete a Project Completion Form (PCF) within 30 days of the project ending, a copy of which is provided to their monitoring officer.

Information provided in PCFs is used to understand the outputs and outcomes for project participants. This, in combination with other work, helps IUK to understand the impact of our funding, understand what we can do better, and provides the evidence base for future grant funding programmes.

The PCF includes questions about profitability and Intellectual Property. Participants are asked to answer these to the best of their ability and to not disclose any information which might breach any statute or regulation, especially those relating to or limiting the disclosure of financial information, jeopardise any patent or other Intellectual Property applications or damage any ongoing commercial negotiations. Nonetheless, the information provided by participants is confidential in nature and would not be generally disclosed to the public.

The PCF specifically states that "individual responses will never be published or made publicly available", this is

also emphasised in the published [IUK Project Impact Guidance](#)[1]. Additionally, there is a further expectation for the information to remain confidential, given that research and development can continue after the project lifetime. It is on this basis that we have determined that the information you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. If this information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

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

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](#)[2].

Yours sincerely,

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