



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

12 June 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00494

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 15 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am requesting the following information regarding UKRI's involvement in the research and funding of solar geoengineering, including but not limited to solar radiation management (SRM) techniques such as stratospheric aerosol injection, marine cloud brightening, and cirrus cloud thinning:

- 1. A full breakdown of public funding allocations related to solar geoengineering research projects from 2015 to present.*
- 2. Copies of project proposals, research summaries, or progress reports for any funded SRM-related work.*
- 3. Any internal briefing documents, risk assessments, or ethical reviews relating to the public, environmental, or international implications of funding SRM research.*
- 4. Any plans for public consultation, community-led environmental monitoring, or governance frameworks associated with these research efforts.*

Our response

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

- 1. A full breakdown of public funding allocations related to solar geoengineering research projects from 2015 to present*

NERC have [announced the funding of projects](#) as part of a research programme on modelling the [impacts of solar radiation management](#)¹ (SRM) on the climate (with £10.5m of funding). The projects began in spring 2025, running for five years. These projects will not deploy SRM in the real world, and will use only computer modelling research and historical data-drive research. This research will model how key aspects of the Earth system would respond to SRM approaches to control Earth surface temperature, if ever implemented at scale.

The research will deliver 'risk-risk analyses' which will consider the detrimental impacts of Earth heating under climate scenarios versus the response where SRM is deployed. There are four projects across four themes. The first two themes focus on modelling on stratospheric aerosol intervention and marine cloud brightening. The third theme will investigate natural analogues (e.g. volcanic eruptions, wildfires, ship track emissions) and mining of existing data to understand SRM. The final theme will investigate the impact of, to date, lesser studied SRM approaches.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/news/research-programme-to-model-impact-of-solar-radiation-management/>

NERC conducted a [public dialogue on geoengineering](#)² in 2011. The new NERC research programme on modelling the impacts of SRM recognises the importance of the public voice in this topic, therefore NERC, working alongside the [Sciencewise](#) programme, have commissioned a public dialogue, which will take place in the latter half of 2025. This will be delivered in collaboration with the research funded through the wider research programme and these strands of activity will come together to provide a wider evidence-base of both the climatic impacts of SRM, and public views and considerations on the social and ethical issues bound up with research and potential deployment.

In addition, we would like to highlight the following investments that UKRI have been involved in funding in this area, which may be of interest:

- The [Stratospheric Particle Injection for Climate Engineering \(SPICE\) project](#)³ (now ended) – EPSRC-led with NERC and STFC co-funding
- [Integrated Assessment of Geoengineering Proposals \(IGAP\) project](#)⁴ (now ended) – EPSRC-led with NERC co-funding

Any information UKRI holds in relation to upcoming or planned projects addressing climate change mitigation or involving geoengineering techniques, that have been funded is publicly available. Under Section 21 of the FOIA, information already reasonably accessible, information on UKRI's funding of research relating to climate mitigation and geoengineering is already available in the public domain via [UKRI's Gateway to Research](#)⁵.

Recommended searches to view funded projects related to this topic include:

- [Geoengineering](#)⁶
- [Solar Radiation Management](#)⁷
- [Solar Radiation Mitigation](#)⁸
- [Earth Radiation Management](#)⁹

Information on projects that have not yet been approved for funding is withheld under section 41 information provided in confidence. To explain further, research organisations submit grant applications in confidence with the understanding that details of their application will remain confidential when unsuccessful. If released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidence.

Section 21 and 41 are absolute exemptions which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

2. Copies of project proposals, research summaries, or progress reports for any funded SRM-related work.

Under Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA the information you have requested is already available in the public domain

Please see links (6, 7, 8 & 9) provided above.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

3. Any internal briefing documents, risk assessments, or ethical reviews relating to the public, environmental, or international implications of funding SRM research.

We do not hold this information centrally; as mentioned above we do fund projects which are actively researching the risks from an ethical, environmental, social and global perspective. We have provided links to the projects UKRI help fund and each of these projects actively publish the results and conclusions of the research when the projects have been concluded, many of these projects are still ongoing and much of this research is ongoing.

² <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20170110120841/http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/geoengineering/>

³ <http://www.spice.ac.uk/>

⁴ <http://www.iagp.ac.uk/index.html>

⁵ <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

⁶ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=geoengineering>

⁷ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=solar+AND+radiation+AND+management>

⁸ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=solar+AND+radiation+AND+mitigation>

⁹ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=earth+AND+radiation+AND+management>

In NERC's current research programme on Modelling environmental responses to solar radiation management, no SRM will be deployed as part of this research and no outdoor experiments will happen; the research will involve modelling only. This programme aligns with the UK government's current position of not deploying SRM but supporting research into the [effects of SRM on climate](#)¹⁰.

The NERC SRM research programme recognises that there is increased interest in SRM measures suggesting that there is a pressing need to consider the impact of SRM approaches to control Earth system temperature. The researchers funded in this programme will be expected to consider the implications for ethics, governance and regulation from the research of the programme, working with wider stakeholders and experts in this field of research. Please see information under question 1 regarding a public dialogue being funded as part of the programme, which will engage a diverse group of the UK public to deliberate on SRM to understand what public views and considerations are on SRM. This includes social, legal and ethical issues bound up with both research and potential deployment of SRM.

4. Any plans for public consultation, community-led environmental monitoring, or governance frameworks associated with these research efforts.

Please see above information on the public dialogue.

As part of our duty to provide advice and assistance you may also find these previous FOI requests of interest:

- [FOI2024/00862: Climate Change Projects and Geoengineering Initiatives - Disclosure log](#)
- [FOI2024/00310: Geo-engineering Activities \(NERC & STFC\) - Disclosure log](#)
- [FOI2023/00301: Geoengineering Programs - Disclosure log](#)
- [FOI2022/00324: Weather Modification Records - Disclosure log](#)

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](#)¹¹.

Yours sincerely,


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

¹⁰ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5eb13050e90e0723bad30a11/geoengineering-position-statement.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>