



[REDACTED]

22 October 2020

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00307

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 20 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

1. *How many PhD funding places (from all the UKRI bodies) were awarded to students of a Black African/Caribbean or Mixed Black African/Caribbean heritage between September 2019 - September 2020*
2. *Can I get a break down of how many students of Black African/Caribbean or Mixed Black African/Caribbean heritage were awarded PhD funding via each of the research councils (for example, "there were two awarded in 2018 via the ESRC") beginning September 2016, September 2017, September 2018 and September 2019.*

Our response:

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

The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to PhD funding and the breakdown of student's ethnicity is in the public interest. However, the data is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest. Furthermore, releasing the data as you have requested prior to publication would allow for calculation of the totals that will be included in our upcoming publication.

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure.

We can inform you that the information on funding places between September 2019 and September 2020 is likely to be available in early 2021.

In addition, UKRI are planning on publishing results for detailed ethnicity categories of the other years you have requested in Autumn 2020. We anticipate that it will be possible to extrapolate the data you have requested, at an individual council level, once this data set has been compiled and released.

If you require any further information following the release of this data, we would welcome you to submit a new request.

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 or 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 | dataprotection@ukri.org