



[REDACTED]

16 September 2020

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00207

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 7 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Would it be possible to get the ranked list of all proposals and the cut off for the 2019 capital call? The NERC website does not have this information available yet, and it would be useful to have for a planned submission for the next call later this year.

Our response

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

We have determined that the information you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. To explain further, UKRI would not release information on the unsuccessful proposals into the public domain, as the details included in the ranked list have been provided in confidence. If the information were to be released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test. However, there is still a need for us to consider whether there are any public interest defence arguments which might outweigh the prevailing public interest in maintaining confidentiality. We considered whether disclosure of the ranked list would facilitate transparency and accountability in NERC's funding decisions, however concluded that this public defence argument is not sufficient to override the public interest in maintaining the privacy of unsuccessful applicants.

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