



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

13 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00230**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 3 August in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am making this request under the freedom of information act to ask for the following information:*

*Could we please receive a breakdown by ethnicity of*

*a) your chair / all of your chairs (if your organisation has multiple chairpersons)*

*b) all of your board members.*

**Our response:**

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

We are exempting the ethnicity of our chair and executive chairs under section 40(2) of the FOIA.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulations and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

In this case, we believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that processing of personal data is lawful and fair. We have considered the legitimate interests of all parties in disclosure of this information and have found that on balance there is not an overriding legitimate interest in disclosure that outweighs the reasonable expectations of privacy of the individuals concerned.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and UKRI is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Furthermore, UKRI do not hold information relating to the ethnicity of all its board members. The board of UKRI is appointed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and therefore, if this information is held, it would be held by them.

Ethnicity information of any board members whose data is held by UKRI is also being withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because the numbers in one or more categories are fewer than five. We cannot provide details where the numbers are fewer than five as the individuals concerned in this group or in other groups could be identifiable. This is the standard approach to statistical reporting.

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)