19 March 2024

Dear ███████████

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00136

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 21 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Under the Freedom of Information Action, I would like to request the following information regarding the funding of the ARI Database (see https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-one-stop-shop-to-find-the-topics-government-is-interested-in-researching)

I note this is funded jointly by the Government Office for Science (GoS) and ESRC, hence this is being sent to both bodies.

1) Total costs associated with the initial development and launch of the database.

2) Committed costs for on-going maintenance and development

3) Reports / evaluations provided since launch to the funders on the performance of the database

Note: I cannot find any details of the funding for this project using the UKRI grant funding search tool.

Our response

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

1) *Total costs associated with the initial development and launch of the database.*
   The total ESRC contribution to the development and launch of the database was £40,010.

   This breaks down as follows:
   - £12,000 Funding included in the original year 2 costings for the ARI fellows
   - £28,000 Funding provided by ESRC as an additional funding stream
   - £10 to top up the £9,990 additional funding from GoS

2) *Committed costs for on-going maintenance and development*
   ESRC has not committed any costs towards ongoing maintenance and development.

3) *Reports / evaluations provided since launch to the funders on the performance of the database:*
   No reports or evaluations on the performance of the database have been provided to ESRC therefore this information is not held. However, the project is monitored on an ongoing basis through regular strategic partnership meetings.

Further information on the ARI Database is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-one-stop-shop-to-find-the-topics-government-is-interested-in-researching)[1] and on the ari.org.uk[2] website.

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: https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/

Yours sincerely,
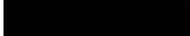
Information Governance
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[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-one-stop-shop-to-find-the-topics-government-is-interested-in-researching
[2] https://ari.org.uk/