

[REDACTED]

7 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00636

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 22 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Under FOIA, please provide copies of all email correspondence (including any attachments) held by the below persons that was sent or received during the period 1st April 2023 - 1st May 2023 which relates to the Infected Blood Inquiry or Infected Blood Compensation.

- Dame Ottoline Leyser
- Professor Fiona Watt

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold any information relevant to your request.

Professor Fiona Watt stepped down as Executive Chair of MRC in 2022 and was therefore not working at MRC/UKRI during the time period as specified in your request. For that reason we ran searches across UKRI's email accounts for Professor John Iredale, Professor Watt's successor, as interim Executive Chair of MRC.

Searches across UKRI email accounts for both Professor John Iredale and Dame Ottoline Leyser for the period 1 April 2023 to 1 May 2023, for the key terms 'Infected Blood Inquiry' or 'Infected Blood Compensation' yielded no results.

We can therefore confirm that UKRI does not hold any information in scope of your 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 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
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
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