



[REDACTED]

6 August 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00592

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 1 July, and subsequent revised request, received on the 19 July, in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Thank you for your previous response relating to the above case [FOI2024/00136] and the information provided.

I have additional requests under Freedom of Information in relation to the costs of the ARI Database (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-one-stop-shop-to-find-the-topics-government-is-interested-in-researching>)

- 1) Could you please confirm details of the Principal Investigator for this award and the organisation the money was awarded to?*
- 2) A copy of the application submitted for the funding*
- 3) Documents or emails held by UKRI regarding the application and decision.*
- 4) Re reporting, you said - "the project is monitored on an ongoing basis through regular strategic partnership meetings" - can you please confirm which specific meeting / fora this is, who the attendees are, and the dates it has met in 2024?*

Our clarification:

We thought it may be useful to provide you with some background information, as the development of the ARI Database was not a stand-alone project that submitted an application for funding in the sense that you may have anticipated.

Instead, ESRC funded two ARI Engagement Fellows, whose role was to work with policy and research experts to help develop ARIs and help them to reach their full potential of connecting government research priorities to the expertise and insights within the UK's research communities.

Details of these projects are available here:

- [ARI Policy Engagement Fellow¹](#)
- [ARI Research Engagement Fellow²](#)

The proposal for the ARI Database came out of the second phase of the ARI Fellow's work and fits within their planned impact to "develop tools and guidance to facilitate better relationships between evidence producers and potential users in Government".

¹ <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=ES%2FT009128%2F1#/tabOverview>

² <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=ES%2FT009160%2F2#/tabOverview>

The ARI Database was funded via an additional funding stream added to the ARI Policy Engagement grant, with contributions from ESRC and Government of Science (GoS). This was a one-off grant and there is no ongoing financial commitment from ESRC to continue funding the database.

According to ESRC policy, the additional funds provided (as noted in our response to your previous request) fall well under the £150,000 limit that requires external peer review and was therefore signed off internally.

Your revised request:

Thank you for this helpful response which in part satisfied my request.

I was trying to establish which body the "additional funding stream added to the ARI Policy Engagement grant" was paid to - in this respect, I can now see this is London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine.

Given this, could I please amend my previous Freedom of Information request to the following.

1) Re reporting, you said - "the project is monitored on an ongoing basis through regular strategic partnership meetings" - can you please confirm which specific meeting this is, who the standing members are (job roles). Please also provide minutes for all meetings between June 2023 and June 2024.

Our response:

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

Strategic partnership meetings between ESRC and GoS are typically held every 2 to 3 months. There is no standing agenda for these meetings; they involve both parties providing updates on current activities, strategic priorities and future plans. The ARI Engagement Fellows are relatively small investments, therefore if they are discussed at one of these meetings they would be one of a number of agenda items covered.

Attendance at these strategic partnership meetings varies, depending on the specific agenda items, but representation will usually consist of:

ESRC Public Policy representatives:

- Deputy Director, Public Policy Engagement
- Head of Policy Partnerships and Impact

GoS representatives:

- Areas of Research Investment Engagement Lead
- Head of Science Networks, Systems and Capability
- Head of Science Systems and Academic Engagement

Formal minutes are not taken for these meetings; therefore this information is not held by UKRI.

Please also note that the ESRC funding for both ARI Fellowships concluded in October 2023, so whilst ESRC maintain an active interest in monitoring the legacy of the work, they are not something that requires active investment management.

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](#)³.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

³ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>