



[REDACTED]

24 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00406**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 20 December, and clarification received on the 10 January, in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Please advise:*

1. *How many staff (as measured by full-time equivalents) do you employ to work on communications? Please include all internal and external communications including work on your website, media queries and social media.*
2. *What was your communication spending for the financial year 2021/22 and what is the budget for the current communications spending in the current financial year?*

*Please include salary costs [in the spend and budget].*

**Our response:**

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

The communications and engagement staff of UKRI support all aspects of our mission. These staff provide a service to researchers and innovators by ensuring potential applicants know what opportunities are available and how to apply. They also deliver the UK's research and innovation ambitions by connecting research and innovation to people's daily lives, demonstrating their economic and social benefits, and highlighting the roles of the many different people involved in their delivery with opportunities for all citizens to contribute to and benefit.

1. *How many staff (as measured by full-time equivalents) do you employ to work on communications? Please include all internal and external communications including work on your website, media queries and social media.*

The total number of staff employed by UKRI is 8,261 FTE. Of these, 139 FTE work in communication roles.

Of the total staff, 4,580 FTE work in our institutes and centres such as British Antarctic Survey, British Geological Survey, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, and those at the Research Complex at Harwell. These institutes and centres have a total of 36.2 FTE in communication roles. These roles perform a range of functions such as explaining research findings and outcomes to a wide range of public audiences as well as policy makers at a local, national and international level, and ensuring operational information is shared effectively across specific scientific sites.

The remaining 3,681 FTE work in research and innovation support, primarily in our Swindon offices. Of these, the equivalent of 102.8 FTE work in communication roles. This includes 35.3 working in business operations, publishing and promoting all of UKRI's grant calls, helping to generate a strong set of

applications to our funding calls so that public funds are used to support the best proposals possible. A further 4.8 work in business-to-business engagement within Innovate UK, and 62.7 work in diverse roles from explaining the relevance and impact of investment in research and innovation, to supporting effective engagement with our diverse communities and many partners, as well as internal communications.

These figures are correct as of the end of January 2023.

2. *What was your communication spending for the financial year 2021/22 and what is the budget for the current communications spending in the current financial year?*

The table below shows the spending of the UKRI Communications & Engagement function for 2021/22, and the 2022/23 budget. We have also included information on the budget for the rest of UKRI for 2022/23.

Spending Area	FY 2021/22 Actuals		FY 2022/23 Budget	
	UKRI C&E function	Distributed comms functions	UKRI C&E function	Distributed comms functions
Salary	£6,525,796	Not held*	£6,847,347	£2,020,007
Non-Salary	£2,535,334	Not held*	£2,319,204	£636,618
<b>Total by area</b>	£9,061,130	Not held*	£9,166,551	£2,656,625
<b>Total</b>	£9,061,130 for UKRI C&E only*		£11,823,176**	

\* Full information on the communication spending for the rest of UKRI in 2021/22 is not held. Communications expenditure in the wider organisation is not tracked as a category, but instead integrated across a range of budgets. From 2022/23, these figures are now being recorded as part of UKRI's ongoing work to redesign our operating model to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

\*\* UKRI is making savings across our operations, so although the figures provided above include the budget for the current financial year, the actual spend is expected to be lower.

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)

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](http://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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