

[REDACTED]

20 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00288

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

Your request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding research and activities related to atmospheric aerosols and aircraft emissions.

Specifically, I would like to request:

- 1. Any information on how frequently aircraft are involved in the release of aerosols into the atmosphere as part of research projects, environmental studies, or other initiatives funded or overseen by UK Research and Innovation.*
- 2. Details of the substances or compounds included in any such aerosols, including their chemical composition.*
- 3. Any available research, risk assessments, or reports regarding the potential impact of these aerosols on public health and the environment.*
- 4. The names of any projects, programmes, or collaborating organisations involved in such activities, along with relevant dates.*

Our response:

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

Your request has been interpreted as referring to the solar radiation modification (SRM) approach known as stratospheric aerosol injection/intervention (SAI). UKRI has not funded any research projects involving the release of aerosols from aircraft into the atmosphere to study this approach, therefore no information is held in relation to questions 1 and 2.

Research has been funded to investigate the potential impacts of this approach, such as the [SPICE project](#)¹, and a recent investment by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has been made to model the impact of SRM, including one project focusing on SAI for which more information is available [here](#)².

There are also UKRI research investments to study the impact of non-CO2 emissions from aviation on climate (emissions which occur already from aircraft), which has included aerosols, through the [Jet Zero](#)³ programme and the [Aviation's non-CO2 impacts on the climate 2025](#)⁴ funding opportunity.

¹ <http://www.spice.ac.uk/>

² <https://www.ukri.org/news/modelling-the-impact-of-solar-radiation-modification/>

³ https://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_them.asp?them=Jet+Zero&cookieConsent=A

⁴ <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/aviations-non-co2-impacts-on-the-climate-2025/>

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, information already reasonably accessible, information on UKRI's funding of research in this area, including project names, summaries, collaborating organisations involved and dates of funding, is already available in the public domain via [UKRI's Gateway to Research](#)⁵.

Recommended searches to view funded projects related to your area of interest include:

- [Geoengineering](#)⁶
- [Solar Radiation Management](#)⁷
- [Solar Radiation Modification](#)⁸
- [Stratospheric Aerosol Injection](#)⁹
- [Stratospheric Aerosol Intervention](#)¹⁰
- [Aerosol](#)¹¹

Where available, links to published findings and reports are also available for completed projects.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Your rights

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

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 procedure](#)¹².

Yours sincerely,


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

⁵ <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

⁶ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=geoengineering>

⁷ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=solar+radiation+management>

⁸ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=solar+radiation+modification>

⁹ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=Stratospheric+Aerosol+Injection>

¹⁰ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=Stratospheric+Aerosol+Intervention>

¹¹ <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=aerosol>

¹² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>