

[REDACTED]

27 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00421**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 14 September in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I'm writing from [REDACTED]*

*[REDACTED] We are currently looking into how the level of neuroscience funding might have changed over time and would appreciate your assistance in finding out more about the UKRI's funding into neuroscience and neuroscience-related disciplines.*

*Please could you provide me with information on the following, broken down by year and across your various research councils where applicable:*

- How many projects have been funded looking at neuroscience or neuroscience-related disciplines in the past 10 years?*
- Of the above projects, how much funding has gone into these projects in the past 10 years?*
- Of the above projects, can they be separated into specific fields (e.g. mental health, neurodegeneration etc), and what is the breakdown of this in the past 10 years?*
- Has the UKRI found a shift in funded projects based on recent innovative neurotechnological developments, including potentially more funding into artificial intelligence and neural interfaces as clinical therapies?*
- Over the past 10 years, has the total amount of funding for neuroscience and neuroscience-related disciplines changed (i.e. increased, decreased, stayed the same)?*

**Our response:**

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

Under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), information already reasonably accessible, the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain:

- Number of projects funded looking at neuroscience or neuroscience-related disciplines in the past 10 years
- How much funding has gone into these projects in the past 10 years
- The breakdown of these projects into specific fields in the past 10 years
- The trend of the total amount of funding for neuroscience and neuroscience-related disciplines over the past 10 years

This information is already available from the [Gateway to Research](https://gtr.ukri.org)<sup>1</sup>. Projects can be filtered using a variety of different search terms, including key words and start year. Details available for each project include funding amounts and health category.

<sup>1</sup><https://gtr.ukri.org>

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

In addition, we deem your question as to whether UKRI has found a shift in funded projects based on recent innovative neurotechnological developments to be out of scope of the FOIA, as you are seeking opinion and commentary, rather than information that is held.

We would advise, should you wish to engage with UKRI further on this subject, that you contact [BBSRC.CPS@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:BBSRC.CPS@bbsrc.ac.uk) for further information on the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's neuroscience research and innovation portfolio, and [Evaluation&AnalysisTeam@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:Evaluation&AnalysisTeam@mrc.ukri.org) for relevant information from the Medical Research Council.

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) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@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: <http://www.ico.gov.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  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)