



[REDACTED]

9 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00112

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 7 March in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am enquiring whether UKRI holds data on the representation of ethnic minorities, disabled people and age & gender breakdown of funding panel committee members across the 7 research councils and pan-UKRI funds for the last 5 years?

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information attached as document 'FOI2023-00112 EDI funding panel committee members'

We note that you sent the same request to several research councils; please note that all research councils, Innovate UK and Research England have been brought together under UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as of April 2018. As this is the case, all your requests have been collated into a single request under UKRI.

Data has been provided for the 7 research councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC) and for pan-UKRI funds.

Notes to the data:

- The data covers the period 2017/18 – 2022/23
- Data relates to the official financial year, so the FYs run from 6th April to 5th April.
- The data includes members whose attendance was accepted or attended, that is, the data includes any person who, on our grants system, was recorded as either "attended" or with "attendance accepted" by year and council.
- Variance in updating the system post-meeting means that data for STFC and MRC may not be representative as not all of STFC's or MRC's participants have been captured as 'attended' and may therefore be missing.
- Data for MRC reflects variable approaches to recording of panel members by year and panel type, multiple panels with the same membership are held for some MRC funding opportunities and this may have been recorded as a single panel or multiple panels. Membership data is not available for some MRC panels, for example, information is not held about joint panels if operated by our co-funding partners outside UKRI.
- Results for groups with between 1 and 4 members are suppressed under Section 40(2) as explained further below
- Counts of 5 or more are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5. Counts of 0 are shown.

Please also note that within the data provided we have counted every person attending each meeting, disregarding any replication of people attending meetings. This means that if the same person attended more than one meeting in a year, they will have been counted more than once; they would have been replicated by the

number of meetings they attended that year. For example, if the same female attended 4 Pan-UKRI panel meetings in a year, they will have been counted 4 times towards the sum total of females attending Pan-UKRI panel meetings in that year.

Some information has been withheld from disclosure under section 40(2), the exemption relating to personal information, and data relating to less than five individuals has not been detailed. We consider that to provide the details, individuals in this group could be identifiable. This would undermine expectations of confidentiality in such circumstances and would be unfair to those concerned. We consider that to disclose information relating to small numbers of individuals would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) of lawfulness, fairness and transparency. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

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,


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