



[REDACTED]

25 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00153**

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

**Your request:**

*Please treat this as a request for environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.*

*I am content for you to limit your searches to UKRI's central grant/award databases and any standard descriptors or tags used for research topics. I am not asking anyone to manually review individual project files.*

**1. Project list**

*Please provide a table listing all UKRI-funded research projects, live or completed, with start dates from 1 January 2018 onwards, where the primary subject matter is any of the following:*

- *“solar radiation management”*
- *“solar geoengineering” or “solar geo-engineering”*
- *“stratospheric aerosol injection”*
- *“marine cloud brightening”*
- *“cirrus cloud thinning”*
- *“albedo modification” in the atmosphere*
- *“climate cooling” defined as deliberate reflection of incoming solar radiation*

**2. Fields requested**

*For each project identified, please provide the following fields (where held in your database):*

- *project title*
- *brief summary or abstract*
- *lead institution*
- *funding council (e.g. NERC, EPSRC, etc.)*
- *total award value (£)*
- *start date and end date*

*If no projects meet these criteria, please say so explicitly.*

We directed you to the UKRI Disclosure Log and four previous responses in the scope of your request: FOI2025/01009, EIR2025/00418, FOI2025/00606 and FOI2025/00494. You later clarified on 25<sup>th</sup> February:

*Thank you for your email and for the references to FOI2025/01009, EIR2025/00418, FOI2025/00606 and FOI2025/00494 on your disclosure log.*

*I would like to proceed with my request, and I am happy for you to meet it in the most efficient way by:*

**1.** *Confirming that the projects and funding identified in those four previous responses together constitute the full set of UKRI-funded research projects since 2015 whose primary subject matter is solar geoengineering / solar radiation management / climate cooling (including stratospheric aerosol injection, marine cloud brightening and cirrus cloud thinning); and*

**2.** *Confirming, under FOIA/EIR, that UKRI has not funded any practical or field-based geoengineering projects or outdoor experiments, and that all UKRI-funded work in this area has been limited to modelling, feasibility studies, or other non-deployment research.*

*If that is the case, a short written confirmation referencing those FOI/EIR numbers will fully answer my request.*

## Our response

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

Under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act, the information you have requested is already reasonably accessible and is already available in the public domain via UKRI's [Gateway to Research](#) (GtR)<sup>1</sup> and [Disclosure Log](#).<sup>2</sup>

All UKRI funding is published on GtR, and the platform is designed to allow the public to search and analyse information on UK research activity and is regularly updated.

Recommended searches to view funded projects related to this topic include:

- ["Solar geoengineering"](#)<sup>3</sup>
- ["Solar radiation management"](#)<sup>4</sup>
- ["Climate cooling"](#)<sup>5</sup>

As advised in our previous correspondence, several previous FOI/EIR responses published on our Disclosure log also concern the subjects raised in your request and you may find these responses helpful:

- FOI2025/01009
- EIR2025/00418
- FOI2025/00606
- FOI2025/00494
- FOI2024/00862
- FOI2024/00310
- FOI2023/00301
- FOI2022/00324

We are unable to provide a definitive list, as the information requested is already readily available on GtR. Our previous responses have outlined earlier projects, and following additional searches, we can confirm that all relevant information has either been published or is scheduled for future publication on GtR. Some information may be withheld from publication on GtR due to exclusions, for more information please see: [Frequently Asked Questions](#).<sup>6</sup>

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

UKRI do not hold a policy that specifies it will not fund practical or field-based geoengineering projects. UKRI have previously funded field-based projects, such as the [SPICE project](#)<sup>7</sup> which was due to have experiments of this nature included, however, some parts of this project were cancelled. You may find the following Guardian article on this project helpful: [Geoengineering experiment cancelled due to perceived conflict of interest | Geoengineering | The Guardian](#).<sup>8</sup> For more information on the SPICE project, you may wish to contact the [University of Bristol](#).<sup>9</sup>

To advise and assist you, you may also find the following NERC article helpful: [Modelling the impact of solar radiation modification – UKRI](#).<sup>10</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=solar+geoengineering>

<sup>4</sup> <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=solar+radiation+management>

<sup>5</sup> <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=climate+cooling>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/publications/gateway-to-research-guide/a-guide-to-gateway-to-research/#section-frequently-asked-questions>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.spice.ac.uk/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/may/16/geoengineering-experiment-cancelled>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/foi/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/news/modelling-the-impact-of-solar-radiation-modification/>

Please note: the Freedom of Information Act provides a right of access to recorded information only. It does not require public authorities to confirm or deny unrecorded assumptions, opinions, or theories, nor to create new information in order to answer a request, only to provide the information held.

## 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](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 procedure](#).<sup>11</sup>

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)

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>