

12 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00041**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 18 February 2020 in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

- *Details of the funding structure of the North Wyke Farm Platform, including any information you hold regarding funding received by North Wyke Farm Platform from CIEL, Rothamsted or any other industry-led or public-private group over the last 5 years.*
- *Details of the composition of any private or industrial members of any 'review panel' for research conducted or proposed to be conducted by North Wyke Farm Platform (e.g. many institutions have a panel that helps to review and decide what research should be approved or put forward for further consideration, and many of these panels contain industrial members. As a major funder of the Platform it seems like that UKRI/BBSRC would hold this information).*

**Our response**

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

1. *Details of the funding structure of the North Wyke Farm Platform, including any information regarding funding received by North Wyke Farm Platform from CEIL, Rothamsted, or any other industry-led or public-private group over the last five years.*
  - a. *Details of the funding structure of the North Wyke Farm Platform.*

The North Wyke Farm Platform (NWFP) is part of Rothamsted Research, which is an independent charitable company, limited by guarantee and governed by a board of non-executive trustee directors. The funding structure for NWFP is determined by Rothamsted Research, not UKRI.

UKRI does not hold details of the overarching funding structure of the NWFP. In terms of UKRI/BBSRC's contribution to the NWFP funding structure, UKRI provides strategic funding to Rothamsted Research to support the NWFP national capability (for details, see 1b below). Land and buildings at North Wyke are owned by UKRI and occupied by Rothamsted Research under a formal lease arrangement.

- b. *Information regarding funding received by North Wyke Farm Platform from CEIL, Rothamsted, or any other industry-led or public-private group over the last five years.*

Given the broad nature of the above request, UKRI have calculated the cost of compliance with this request would exceed the appropriate statutory limit as specified within Section 12 of the FOIA, which for UKRI is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of 18 hours of staff resource locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order for UKRI to comply with this request, we would advise you to refine the request by narrowing the scope. In your request you ask for "information", which is a very wide-ranging term, please can you specify what information you are interested in. You have also asked for information regarding "*CEIL, Rothamsted or any other industry-led or public-private group*"; this is a very broad search criteria and it would take considerable time to locate and retrieve all information. To take this request further, please specify the companies that you are interested in, as well as reducing the timeframe.

Please send the refined request to [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) and we will review this further as a new request.

We can however confirm that UKRI provides strategic funding to Rothamsted Research to support the NWFP national capability. The funding was awarded through the 2011 and 2016 Institute Assessment Exercises, and the associated award references are:

- BBS/E/C/000J0100
- BBS/E/C/00005190

UKRI holds information on funding received by NWFP, including from private sector sources, as part of the outcomes data associated with the two awards listed above. The award details and outcomes data are made publicly available via the UKRI Gateway to Research (GtR) portal. GtR is available via the following link: <https://gtr.ukri.org/>. The outcomes data in GtR is updated annually, usually during the summer.

*2. Details of the composition of any private or industrial members of any 'review panel' for research conducted or proposed to be conducted by North Wyke Farm Platform (e.g. many institutions have a panel that helps to review and decide what research should be approved or put forward for further consideration, and many of these panels contain industrial members. As a major funder of the Platform it seems like that UKRI/BBSRC would hold this information).*

UKRI does not hold information on the composition of any private or industrial members of any NWFP/Rothamsted Research 'review panel' for research conducted or proposed to be conducted by the NWFP.

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)