



[REDACTED]

15 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00404

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 7 September and clarification received 24 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Your reply to my FOI Request [FOI2020/00171] showed that 8 successful bids for grant application regarding Benzodiazepine Research had been awarded from 1970 to 2020.

Could I therefore submit a further FOI Request: Your listed 8 successful bids will all have published their findings / results and I would appreciate full copies of findings and results that the MRC may hold from 1970 to 2020 regarding Benzodiazepine Drug Research.

Our response:

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

From the 8 successful applications awarded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) that relate to possible detrimental health problems caused to patients by prescribed benzodiazepine drugs between 1970 and 2020, no information is held on the two oldest projects, G8717096 and G8804590, as was indicated in our response to FOI2020/0211. These files have been lost or destroyed.

Of the remaining 6 grant files, no information is held on the findings and results of G9502634 and G9502646. Copies of findings and results for the remaining 4 grants (G9514971, G9532675, G9616330 and G9806260) are attached.

We are exempting the names of individuals who are not in the public domain as being linked to the project in question, as well as individual's signatures, under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Disclosing this information 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).

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:

Head of Information Governance
Email: foi@ukri.org or 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 | dataprotection@ukri.org