



14 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00534

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received on the 19 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please disclose copies of all project progress reports, mid-term updates, end-of-project summaries, and technical correspondence held by UKRI (including Innovate UK and BBSRC) that have been submitted by grant recipients or consortium leads regarding the operational performance and real-world testing of the following funded initiatives:

1. *The IntelliPig Project (An automated on-farm pig health monitoring system / Project Reference: 10073790)*
 2. *The HoliWell Programme (Towards a Holistic Assessment of Animal Welfare using Emotion and Deep Learning)*
 3. *The EmotiPig Project (Investigating automatic detection of emotion in biometrically identified pig faces using machine learning)*
- *Date Range: January 2024 to the present date.*
 - *Redactions: To prevent any processing delays regarding personal data (Section 40) or specific commercial identity exemptions (Section 43), I explicitly consent to the redaction of all personal names, direct contact details, and specific company or farm names.*
 - *Information: This request specifically seeks the substantive text regarding how the machine-vision hardware, algorithms, and emotion-recognition sensors performed during field trials (e.g. system calibration notes, accuracy and error rates, data capture issues, and real-world behavioural observations).*

Our response:

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

1. *The IntelliPig Project (An automated on-farm pig health monitoring system / Project Reference: 10073790)*

The [IntelliPig¹](https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=10073790) project is an Innovate UK (IUK) funded project that commenced in November 2023. It is a three-year project and is not due to conclude until October 2026. As the project remains ongoing, no end-of-project summary has been produced. In addition, IUK does not require mid-term updates as part of their reporting, therefore, does not hold any such documents.

IUK also holds no technical correspondence relating to the project. As a funder, IUK does not engage in the detailed technical management of projects. Responsibility for discussing and managing technical matters rests with the project partners.

¹ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=10073790>

IUK does hold project progress reports submitted as part of the quarterly reporting process. We have determined that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 41 of the FOIA (information provided in confidence) and Section 43(2) (prejudice to commercial interests). Further details of these exemptions are set out below.

2. *The HoliWell Programme (Towards a Holistic Assessment of Animal Welfare using Emotion and Deep Learning)*

The [HoliWell](#)² programme is funded by Defra, via the [European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare](#)³. Therefore, UKRI do not hold any information relevant to this programme.

3. *The EmotiPig Project (Investigating automatic detection of emotion in biometrically identified pig faces using machine learning)*

The [EmotiPig](#)⁴ Programme is funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). We have identified the following grants relevant to this programme, details of which are available on UKRI's Gateway to Research:

- [BB/X001830/1](#)⁵
- [BB/X001385/1](#)⁶
- [BB/S002138/1](#)⁷
- [BB/S002294/1](#)⁸

Information relating to project progress reports, mid-term updates, end-of-project summaries, and technical correspondence is not held by UKRI for these projects. However, information that may be of interest is available through the 'Outcomes' tab of the relevant project record.

BBSRC uses an online system, [Researchfish](#)⁹, to collect information on the outputs, outcomes and impacts that have arisen from the research and innovation it funds, including the grants listed above. Further information about the reporting requirements and the types of information researchers are asked to report are available on the [UKRI website](#)¹⁰.

UKRI operates an annual submission period during which researchers are required to submit their outcomes via Researchfish. The period typically lasts for six weeks between February and March each year. Outcomes data reported through Researchfish is subsequently made publicly available through the the relevant project record on Gateway to Research and is updated annually following the submission period. Data submitted during the 2026 reporting period is expected to be made available during Summer 2026.

These grants are not subject to any additional monitoring requirements, such as annual progress reports or mid-term reviews.

Section 41 – Information provided in confidence

We have determined that the information you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence.

² <https://www.uwe.ac.uk/news/holistic-assessment-of-animal-welfare>

³ <https://eupahw.ptj.de/call1>

⁴ <https://pure.sruc.ac.uk/en/projects/emotipig-investigating-automatic-detection-of-emotion-in-biometri/>

⁵ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=BB%2FX001830%2F1>

⁶ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=BB%2FX001385%2F1>

⁷ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=BB%2FS002138%2F1>

⁸ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=BB%2FS002294%2F1>

⁹ <https://www.elsevier.com/en-gb/products/researchfish>

¹⁰ <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/reporting-your-projects-outcomes/>

To explain further, project partners share project progress reports in confidence, with the expectation that these will not be shared or published. As noted in point 20 of the [Terms and Conditions of an Innovate UK Grant Award](#)¹¹, IUK treats all information as confidential and commercially sensitive, unless otherwise agreed in writing. Therefore, if the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Section 43 – Commercial interests

We believe the information you have requested also falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

This is a qualified exemption, and a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs public interest in disclosure.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- The project progress reports contain information relating to the development and evaluation of a product that has commercial potential. Disclosure would be likely to reveal information about the product's development, capabilities and performance at various stages of its lifecycle. Competitors could use this information to the detriment of the organisation's commercial position, potentially reducing future commercial opportunities and undermining the organisation's ability to realise value from its investment in research and development.
- The information contains details of technical approaches, analysis, decision-making processes, development activities, operational arrangements, testing activities and methods used during the project. This constitutes proprietary knowledge and accumulated expertise generated through the application of specialist skills and investment of time and resources. Disclosure would be likely to provide competitors with valuable insights that could assist them in developing or improving competing products or services without incurring similar costs, thereby reducing the benefits derived from the organisation's investment in research, development and innovation, weakening its competitive position and prejudicing its commercial interests.
- Some of the information contained within the reports was obtained through engagement with external commercial partners. Disclosure would be likely to reveal information that those parties consider commercially sensitive and have shared with an expectation of confidentiality. Release of such information could damage their commercial interests and undermine the trust necessary for effective collaboration between research organisations and commercial partners.
- There is a strong public interest in ensuring that organisations can work collaboratively with commercial partners to develop innovative technologies and deliver public benefit. Disclosure of commercially sensitive information could discourage future participation in such projects and reduce the willingness of partners to share information openly. This would be likely to hinder future collaborative research and innovation activity, to the detriment of both the organisation and the wider public interest.

¹¹ <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/IUK-171125-Sept-2025-IUK-TCs.pdf>

- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure; therefore the information is exempt from disclosure.

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

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 procedure](#)¹².

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

¹² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>