



[REDACTED]

2 August 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00228**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 8 July in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

*Please send me the following:*

- 1) How many UKRI-funded PhD students completed their PhD during the past five years?*
- 2) How many PhD students left their PhD prematurely during the past five years?*

*Could you please give this information broken down by year (academic/calendar/financial year depending on how data is organised). Could you, also, please give a breakdown by research council and also the gender of students. So, for example, I'd be able to say how many male students funded by MRC completed/dropped out of PhD last year.*

*I would like the above information to be provided to me in electronic format.*

*If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under Section 16 of the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.*

*If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.*

**Our response**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information attached in the document '*FOI2022/00228 UKRI doctoral awards and terminations*'.

The data is presented by financial year 2015-16 to 2020-21. There are two tabs, one giving overall number of terminations, and number of qualifications awarded. The second tab gives a breakdown by gender (where known) and by research council.

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 provided, indicated by (--). 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:

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: [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 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)