



[REDACTED]

26 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00662

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 31 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am researching how embedded gender critical discourse is within the UK government. The Cabinet Office have informed me about the situation there, but they have also advised me that I would need to contact each department or agency individually in order to learn the situation there because nobody has this information centrally.

Could you please tell me if your department or agency hosts any communications channels dedicated to gender critical people or the SEEN network. These might be on Teams, Yammer, Slack, etc. Thank you for your help.

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does not hold any information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

UKRI does not host any communications channels dedicated to gender critical people, or the SEEN network.

In 2021, UKRI staff launched eight networks, listed below, which are an important part of championing equality, diversity and inclusion across the organisation. Our networks are staff-led and are a vital part of our staff voice and fostering a sense of belonging in our workforce. The networks provide a safe space for people with shared experiences, identities, and allies to connect, collaborate and advocate for issues related to their experiences. We work closely with our staff networks, ensuring the voice of diverse groups are represented in our actions to develop a more inclusive and fair organisational culture, where everyone can contribute, participate, and feel valued and respected.

- Racial Inclusion and Striving for Equity (RISE) Network
- Pride Network
- Disability Matters
- UKRI Women's Chapter
- Parenting Network
- Carers Network
- Multifaith Network
- Early Careers Network

Staff are free to set up additional shared interest groups within UKRI, but at the present time we are not aware of any that have formed around gender critical beliefs.

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

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 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