



22 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00630

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 24 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I note that on your publicly available "Logic and combinatorics" area of investment and support page (last updated 7 March 2025, available at <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/logic-and-combinatorics/> you state:

> "UK expertise in model theory continues to be world-leading, while strength remains in proof and set theory, but computability theory expertise has declined."

Given that it is unusual for a public funder to explicitly state that expertise in a specific subfield has declined, I would like to request all recorded information held by EPSRC relating to this statement.

1. Evidence base for the statement

Please provide all recorded information used to support the conclusion that "computability theory expertise has declined", including but not limited to:

- Any internal reports, briefing notes, or memoranda that analyze the UK's computability theory workforce, research output, or international standing*
- Any data analysis, bibliometric studies, or expert consultation records that informed this conclusion*
- Any "evidence sources" referenced in the Logic and combinatorics strategy that specifically relate to computability theory*

2. Current state of computability theory in the UK

Please provide any recorded information held by EPSRC regarding the current state of UK computability theory research, including:

- Assessments of the current number, institutional distribution, and demographics of computability theory researchers in the UK*
- Comparative analysis of UK computability theory research capacity relative to other countries (particularly the US and major European nations)*
- Analysis of the reasons for the perceived decline (e.g., retirements, researchers moving to other fields, recruitment difficulties, funding trends)*

3. Investment and support for computability theory

Please provide information on EPSRC's current and planned investment in computability theory, including:

- A list of grants funded by EPSRC in computability theory (and closely related areas) over the past 2 years (2024-*

2026), including grant reference, title, PI, and award value

- Any strategic actions or interventions EPSRC has taken, or plans to take, in response to the identified decline
- Any cross-disciplinary funding initiatives that connect computability theory to other areas (particularly Theoretical Computer Science)

4. Records of relevant discussions

Please provide any minutes, meeting notes, or briefing documents from EPSRC internal bodies (including but not limited to the Mathematical Sciences Strategic Advisory Team, Prioritization Panels, or any relevant committees) that discuss the state or future of computability theory.

I am not asking you to review individual grant proposals or reviewer comments. This request is limited to existing documents and evidence that underpin the public statement on your website.

Clarification Request

Following our request for clarification for the time period for searches regarding question 4 on 24 August 2026, you responded:

You may disregard q4. Please continue processing parts 1-3 of my request.

Our response

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

Question 1: Evidence base for the statement

Under Section 21, information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain.

Please see the following webpage on the UKRI website: [EPSRC research area evidence sources – UKRI](#).¹

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Question 2: Current state of computability theory in the UK

In relation to information about researchers in the UK working in this field, UKRI does not hold information that would enable us to identify or provide a comprehensive list of such individuals. Historically, we could identify individuals with relevant expertise where they had previously interacted with UKRI, for example as grant applicants, peer reviewers or panel members, using expertise data held in our systems. However, this information is no longer routinely collected or monitored as part of routine business processes.

We are aware that the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) holds data on researchers within UK higher education institutions, including certain demographic information. However, we understand that HESA's subject classification system may not align with the classification used by UKRI, and therefore we cannot determine whether HESA would be able to provide information corresponding to the specific field described in your request.

UKRI does not hold any recorded information in the scope of your request regarding comparative analysis of UK computability theory research capacity in relation to other countries.

Regarding any recorded analysis of a perceived decline in computability theory research, UKRI holds relevant information: "Whilst the UK continues to be world leading in many aspects of Logic, expertise in the area of computability theory has been significantly depleted due to retirements and loss of staff to overseas institutions. With a lack of early career researchers able to fill this void."

¹ [EPSRC research area evidence sources – UKRI](#)

Question 3: Investment and support for computability theory

Please find attached the list of awards in the last two years linked to the research area defined in your request in the document: **FOI2026_00630 Annex 1**.

UKRI does not hold any recorded information in the scope of your request regarding any EPSRC strategic actions or interventions, or any cross-disciplinary funding initiatives that connect computability theory to other areas.

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](#)².

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance

Information Rights Team

UK Research and Innovation

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² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>