



[REDACTED]

19 April 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00102

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 20 March in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I see with great concern that Researchfish have been aggressively threatening academics for example they responded to a Professor who asked the simple question "What's "Researchfish", with the threat "We understand that you're not keen on reporting on your funding through Researchfish but this seems quite harsh and inappropriate. We have shared our concerns with your funder." (exchange [here](#))

I would therefore like to make the following FOI request:

- 1. Do UKRI have a bullying and harassment policy? If so, can I have a copy of it?*
- 2. Has any assessment of the above exchange (or similar ones with the threat to 'share concerns with your funder') been assessed for whether this is bullying/harassment and/or if it is compliant with any policy you have? If so can I have a copy of emails/minutes/details of discussion of this?*

Our response

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

- 1. Do UKRI have a bullying and harassment policy? If so, can I have a copy of it?*

UKRI is committed to providing a working environment that is safe, comfortable and free from all forms of bullying and harassment.

UKRI's policies, including our employee policy for Grievance, Bullying and Harassment, are publicly available and can be accessed on our UKRI website [here](#)¹.

Please note that these policies refer to UKRI employees only and would not be applicable in the context of the circumstances described in your FOI request as Researchfish is not owned by UKRI.

- 2. Has any assessment of the above exchange (or similar ones with the threat to 'share concerns with your funder') been assessed for whether this is bullying/harassment and/or if it is compliant with any policy you have? If so can I have a copy of emails/minutes/details of discussion of this?*

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/work-for-us/working-at-ukri/our-employment-policies/>

As mentioned above our Grievance, Harassment and Bullying Policy relates to UKRI employees. Therefore, no assessment of whether the exchange constitutes bullying and harassment has been carried out and this information is not held.

We are aware of the concern that has been raised regarding tweets posted by Researchfish. We have issued an updated statement which can be found on [this link](#)².

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

² <https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-update-on-researchfish/>