



[REDACTED]
28 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00200

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 2 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I want to learn how the UKRI decided on the minimum PhD 'stipend' amount of £16,062 for the 2022 - 2023 academic year.

While in the previous years it was adjusted based on the inflation, this year the increase is nearly 30% of the inflation.

I would like to learn how this amount is calculated.

Our response

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

Minimum UKRI stipend rates for the upcoming academic year are normally calculated a year in advance, using the inflation rate at that time. For academic year 2022/23, the UKRI minimum stipend was calculated using the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Consumer Price Index with Housing (CPIH) rate in the 12 months to September 2021. See [Consumer priceinflation, UK: September 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/september2021)¹, released October 2021.

Given recent changes to inflation, UKRI is currently considering the financial support offered for research students and will communicate any decision on this in the summer months. UKRI has also committed to reviewing the stipend and how it is set as part of its long-term work on the New Deal for Postgraduate Research. For more information, please see this UKRI news story: [UKRI considering financial support for research students](https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-considering-financial-support-for-research-students/).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: www.ico.org.uk.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/september2021>

² <https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-considering-financial-support-for-research-students/>

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,

[Redacted Signature]

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