



Sent by email

21 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00369

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 1 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request the following information relating to grants that were awarded by the EPSRC:

- 1. Information relating to the EPSRC Project Reference EP/T030801/1 (Tracer-free, non-intrusive, time- and space-resolved temperature and scalar measurements): This project was due to end on 31 July 2023, but was extended to 31 January 2024. I would like access to all relevant information regarding the application for a no-cost extension to the project. In particular, I would like to know when the application was submitted (including any correspondence regarding it), why it was made, and when it was granted.*
- 2. Information relating to the EPSRC Project Reference EP/T030925/1 (Tracer-free, non-intrusive, time- and space-resolved temperature and scalar measurements): This project was due to end on 31 July 2023, but was extended to 31 January 2024. I would like access to all relevant information regarding the application for a no-cost extension to the project. In particular, I would like to know when the application was submitted (including any correspondence regarding it), why it was made, and when it was granted.*
- 3. Information relating to the EPSRC Project Reference EP/T030623/1 (Tracer-free, non-intrusive, time- and space-resolved temperature and scalar measurements): This project was due to end on 31 July 2023, but was extended to 31 January 2024. I would like access to all relevant information regarding the application for a no-cost extension to the project. In particular, I would like to know when the application was submitted (including any correspondence regarding it), why it was made, and when it was granted.*
- 4. As all three grants relate to the same collaborative project, I would like to know whether each Principal Investigator had to apply for the same extension length or whether all three could have applied for different extension lengths (e.g. a 6 month extension for projects EP/T030801/1 and EP/T030623/1, and a 7 month extension for project EP/T030925/1).*
- 5. I would like to know whether it was possible for a further no-cost extension application to be made for project EP/T030925/1 (with an appropriate justification).*

Our response:

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

1. EP/T030801/1

An extension application was received on 05/02/2023 and an extension was granted on 13/02/2023. The reason provided for the extension request was the failure of a critical piece of equipment early in the project, with mitigation that was put in place proving unsuccessful.

2. EP/T030925/1

An extension application was received on 27/03/2023 and granted on 04/04/2023. The reasons provided were to align with other project collaborators, pandemic setback and equipment failure.

3. EP/T030623/1

An extension application was received on 20/02/2023 and granted on 08/03/2023. Information is not held on the reason for the extension.

With regard to Q4, each Principal Investigator (PI) applies for the extension length they need, and every application is assessed on their own merit. For example, it is not assumed that because a parent grant gets extended, that a child grant must also be extended by the same amount. Even if an issue was to impact several grants, each would be treated individually.

In response to Q5, while project EP/T030925/1 was running (it concluded in January 2024) it was possible for a further no-cost extension to be applied for, although it would have been outside standard conditions and have required exceptional circumstances for approval.

I note since your initial request, you have asked the below additional questions:

- 1. EPSRC projects EP/T030801/1, EP/T030925/1 and EP/T030623/1 were separately held by Cambridge, Cardiff, and Oxford Universities respectively. However, they were all part of a joint collaborative submission (and therefore all have the same title). All three Universities applied for 6 month no-cost extensions. In point 4 of my original request, I asked whether each University was free to apply for a different duration extension. If they were free to apply for different durations, can I also ask whether a justified request for a different duration of extension by one of the Universities (for example, if Oxford applied for an 8 month no-cost extension instead of 6 months) would have been looked at unfavorably?*
- 2. In point 5 of my original request, I asked whether Oxford University could have applied for another no cost extension. If so, then when would they have to have applied for this extension by?*
- 3. When applying for a no cost extension, what sort of reasons are generally acceptable for requesting the extension?*

We have determined that these requests for information fall outside the scope of Freedom of Information Act, as they are seeking opinion, commentary, or decision making on hypothetical scenarios, and are therefore not requests for information that is held.

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 within the next 40 working days:

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,



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