



[REDACTED]

13 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00161

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 22 March in which you requested the following:

Your request:

In the NICE Guidance Document NG145 the Committee proposed that funding would be sought to start a trial on the use of liothyronine or NDT, to compare with levothyroxine.

I have looked at the information you provide but cannot find what I'm looking for.

Please can you confirm whether or not

- 1. a request for such funding was received, and*
- 2. dates of receipt and*
- 3. date of acceptance or refusal?*
- 4. If accepted, how much was the award for?*

Our response:

I can neither confirm nor deny whether UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds the information you have requested.

Section 41(1) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if such disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence. Section 41(2) provides an exclusion from the duty placed on a public authority such as UKRI to confirm or deny the existence of the information if the act of confirming or denying would itself result in an actionable breach of confidence. We believe that is the case in regard to your request.

To explain further, the Medical Research Council's (MRC) guidance states that if applications are successful that their information will be published. It is therefore implied that all organisations can confidently apply to the MRC and information relating to their application will be kept confidential unless they are successful.

To confirm that an application has been received, but not funded, would be an actionable breach of this confidence. To confirm that an application has not been received would make it possible to determine if an unsuccessful application is submitted in the future.

The terms of the exemption in the FOIA mean that UKRI do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for us to reveal whether or not the information is held.

The fact section 41 of the FOIA has been cited should not be taken as an indication that the information you requested is or is not held by UKRI.

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,


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