



[REDACTED]

3 June 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00436**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 21 May in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Thank you for providing a response to my FOI request (reference number FOI2024/00369).*

*The responses to my first 5 questions were very helpful, and are appreciated.*

*I understand that my first additional question was subjective, and therefore falls outside the scope of the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, I would like to rephrase my request: Can I please ask whether there was any communication from EPSRC where the grant holder (PI) for project EP/T030925/1 was informed that an extension for a different duration would have been looked at unfavourably?*

*For my second additional question, I believe that the request falls within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act - I do not believe that I am asking for an opinion, commentary, or decision on a hypothetical scenario. I'm simply asking what the terms and conditions were surrounding the grant, with respect to when a no-cost extension request must be submitted by. For example, was it one month before the end of the grant?*

*For the third additional question, it is helpful to know that 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. Can I please ask what is considered as exceptional circumstances? I understand that this would be subjective, but I there must be some guidance surrounding it? Perhaps there are some terms and conditions that were supplied with the grant? To be clear - I am not asking for an opinion on what may/may not be considered an exceptional circumstance; I'm just asking for what guidance is provided around it.*

**Our response**

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

***Can I please ask whether there was any communication from EPSRC where the grant holder (PI) for project EP/T030925/1 was informed that an extension for a different duration would have been looked at unfavourably?***

UKRI does not hold information in scope of this part of your request. UKRI holds information requesting the extension and approving the extension but no information is held regarding 'unfavourable extension durations'.

***For my second additional question .... I'm simply asking what the terms and conditions were surrounding the grant, with respect to when a no-cost extension request must be submitted by. For example, was it one month before the end of the grant?***

***For the third additional question, it is helpful to know that 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. Can I please ask what is considered as exceptional circumstances? I understand that this would be subjective, but I there must be some guidance surrounding it? Perhaps there are some terms and conditions that were supplied with the grant? To be clear - I am not asking for an opinion on what may/may not be considered an exceptional circumstance; I'm just asking for what guidance is provided around it.***

With regard to the second and third parts of your request information on extension requests is publicly available [here](#)<sup>1</sup> with further information [here](#)<sup>2</sup> and on UKRI's [grant terms and conditions](#)<sup>3</sup> webpages.

Regarding exceptional circumstances the [terms and conditions guidance](#)<sup>4</sup> provides information on the last date grant holders can request an extension request as follows:

*“Unless there are exceptional circumstances, requests for extensions should be made via the Grant Maintenance facility. These should be made aware to UKRI as soon as the requirement is identified and can be submitted at any point during an award but at least 3 months before the grant end date to allow time for the request to be actioned”.*

As this information is in the public domain, we consider that Section 21 of the FOIA - Information already reasonably accessible, would apply and have provided the relevant links above. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

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](mailto: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](http://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](#)<sup>5</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/requesting-a-change-to-your-project/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/requesting-a-change-to-your-project/if-theres-an-unexpected-change-in-circumstances/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-research-grants/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/UKRI-020424-FECGrantTermsConditionsGuidanceApril2024.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>