



10 March 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00051

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 15 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I noticed that today you published a blog about investing £40 million in a green future for the UK <https://www.ukri.org/news/nerc-invests-40-million-in-a-green-future-for-the-uk/> and I would like to know

Do you have any evidence to show that criteria were set to highlight the importance of conserving within-species genetic diversity for native plants as part of what projects you were prepared to fund?

Do you have any evidence that any of the projects specifically said they would conserve within-species genetic diversity of native plants within their proposed project outlines?

Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold the information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

Information on the NERC assessment criteria is published [here](#)¹. More specific information about the 'Changing the Environment' call², is available from the published [funding opportunity](#)³ and [announcement of opportunity](#)⁴.

This was an open call for any topic or target environmental solution, therefore such specific assessment criteria as "conserving within-species genetic diversity for native plants" would not have been appropriate.

We can also confirm that no information is held on any of the funded projects specifically mentioning "conserving within-species genetic diversity for native plants" within their applications.

It would be our recommendation to approach the award holders directly to see if they can provide further information on this topic.

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.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/guidance-for-applicants/what-happens-after-you-submit-your-proposal/assessment-criteria/>

² <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/changing-the-environment/>

³ <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/changing-the-environment/>

⁴ <https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/changing-the-environment/news/ao-changing-the-environment/changing-the-environment-ao-july-2020/>

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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