



[REDACTED]

6 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00231**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 29 April in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am involved with the project which is analyzing the relationships between the UK universities and their profitability. Recently I have been using your Funding Finder Tool to extract the data related to the universities of my interest. In the Projects page ([https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=\\*&fetchSize=25&selectedSortableField=&selectedSortOrder=](https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=*&fetchSize=25&selectedSortableField=&selectedSortOrder=)) I was only able to find the data from 2003 onwards. However, my project is looking at the time interval between 1993 and 2019. Is there any way to find the data from the earlier years? If so, I would greatly appreciate any guidance in accessing the data.*

**Our response**

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

We have determined that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate statutory limit as specified within Section 12 of the FOIA, which for UKRI is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of 18 hours of staff resource on locating, retrieving and extracting the information. You have asked for data for the period before 2003, in particular data starting from 1993 to 2003, which is a very wide-ranging time frame.

We do not have a practical means of collating and providing the data requested as there is currently no central repository for this information; each Research Council would have to manually carry out searches and extract the data for each project and funding system.

Prior to the introduction of Siebel, the centralised funding system in 2012, each Council managed its own funding system which were mainly paper based and it is unknown how many projects and funding schemes we would need to manually examine in order to locate and extract the relevant data. This data could sit in various different business aspects of each Council making its collection too onerous. It would therefore not be possible to scope a Council-wide request and collate meaningful results within the costs limit.

Section 12(2) provides that if the cost of determining whether the requested information is held would exceed the appropriate cost limit, the public authority is not required to comply with the request. Consequently, UKRI is not obliged under Section 12 of the FOIA to comply with your request.

We have tried to identify a way in which you could refine your request to bring it under the appropriate cost limit which would enable us to comply with this request, however due to the volume of work required we regret that this has not been possible.

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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto: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,

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