



[REDACTED]

1 November 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00338

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 18 October in which you requested the following:

Your request:

In response to a previous FOI request

[FOI2022/00293: Peer Review Reliability - UK Research and Innovation Disclosure Log](#)

you noted the following in response:

"Following work carried out by an external consultant, panel assessment processes have been revised to ensure that a fair process is followed, and equal time and consideration is given to all applications."

Please could you provide me with the following information:

- A copy of any report / slide pack produced by the external consultant mentioned.
- The name of the external consultant.
- Whether it has done (or commissioned) any other research into its panel assessment procedures, and to provide copies of any relevant reports.

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold information relevant to your request.

Prior to UKRI being formed, an external consultant (Pearn Kandola) did some work with the Research Councils related to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training. In parallel to this, a strand of work looking at research commissioning was also completed, including observation of a number of panel meetings run by different Councils. This included observation of one of ESRC's Grants Assessment Panels (GAP). Pearn Kandola provided verbal feedback following this meeting, which ESRC used to inform good practice guidance for commissioning panels, some of which was EDI focused. There was no formal report to ESRC, and the input was incorporated into ongoing continuous improvement of peer review and assessment.

Pearn Kandola's verbal feedback on the observation of ESRC GAPs fed into the attached handbook '*Final GAP Member Handbook v5 (Sept 2022)*' which was drafted by ESRC and has evolved over time.

ESRC has not commissioned any other research into its panel assessment procedures.

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: 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,

Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
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