



[REDACTED]

3 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00007

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 6 January in which you requested the following:

Your request:

What is the headcount (number) of staff employed in communications, marketing, press and public affairs in your organisation?

Our response:

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

We note that you have sent the same request to several research councils. All the research councils, Innovate UK and Research England were brought together under UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). As this is the case, all your requests will be handled as a single request from UKRI.

The headcount of staff employed in communications, marketing, press and public affairs related roles in UKRI is 160, with an FTE of 153.65.

The UKRI Communications & Engagement (C&E) function was formed in July 2019. Prior to this, research councils had their own teams, and the majority of relevant staff were transferred from their original council into the cross-UKRI C&E function during 2019/20.

Of the 160 staff employed by UKRI, 22 (21.22 FTE) are part of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (including those working in facilities at Harwell, Daresbury and RAL Space), 12 (11.9 FTE) are with the British Geological Survey and 8 (8 FTE) are with the British Antarctic Survey. These roles perform a range of functions such as explaining research findings and outcomes to a wide range of public audiences as well as policy makers at a local, national and international level, and ensuring operational information is shared effectively across specific scientific sites.

The cross-UKRI C&E function is made up of 111 (105.72 FTE) staff, with the remaining 7 (6.81 FTE) working directly with Innovate UK, the Medical Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. These staff work in a diverse range of roles from explaining the relevance and impact of investment in research and innovation, to supporting effective engagement with our many communities and partners, as well as internal communications, publishing and promoting all of UKRI's grant calls, helping to generate a strong set of applications to our funding calls so that public funds are used to support the best proposals possible. Innovate UK staff also work in business-to-business engagement.

This data is correct as of 31/12/2024 and includes employees and contractors deemed as UKRI staff, who are in both professional support and research facing roles.

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

Head of Information Governance

Email: 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.

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 procedure](#)¹.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>