



[REDACTED]

15 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00709

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received on the 12 August, and clarification received on the 17 August, in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request information held by UKRI relating to the use of animals in research conducted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. I do not seek any information that relates to places, people or intellectual property.

Please provide me with details of:

The total value (in £s) of funding provided by UKRI to research projects using animals conducted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, for 2023, 2024 and 2025 - providing separate yearly figures.

Showing what % of these yearly totals were for UKRI grants which provided partial funding to a project, and those that were funded in full by UKRI.

The total value (in £s) of funding provided by UKRI for research projects specifically using non-animal technologies, also referred to as New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for 2023, 2024 and 2025 - providing separate yearly figures.

Showing what % of these yearly totals were for UKRI grants which provided partial funding to a project, and those that were funded in full by UKRI.

Our response:

We can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds information falling within the scope of your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

We have therefore refused your request under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that the cost of complying with the request, or in the case of section 12(2), confirming or denying whether information is held, would exceed the prescribed limit.

For UKRI, the appropriate limit is £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time, calculated at the statutory rate of £25 per hour.

When estimating whether the cost limit would be exceeded, a public authority may take into account one or more of the following activities:

- determining whether information is held;

- locating the information;
- retrieving the information; and
- extracting the requested information.

It may be helpful to explain why UKRI estimates that responding to your request as currently framed would exceed the appropriate limit. Information falling within the scope of your request is provided as part of the application process and is held across multiple business areas and systems, electronic repositories and records management systems.

Therefore, establishing the extent of information falling within scope would require the manual review of a number of data sources and documents followed by the extraction, review, analysis and presentation of the information within scope, which we estimate would significantly exceed the statutory limit of 18 hours.

UKRI therefore estimates that the work required would exceed the appropriate limit and has refused your request under section 12(1) of the FOIA.

Advice and assistance

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, UKRI has a duty to provide advice and assistance, so far as it is reasonable to do so.

Whilst UKRI is unable to comply with your request in its current form, it may be possible for us to comply with a revised request seeking a narrower category of information.

We believe that it may be possible to respond to the first part of your request, funding provided by UKRI to research projects using animals, within the appropriate limit.

However, we believe that to respond to the second part of your request would exceed the appropriate limit. This is because there is no indicator or 'flag' within UKRI systems that could be used to identify projects awarded to research which is using non-animal technologies. To identify projects that may be relevant it would be necessary to perform searches using relevant key terms. A manual review would then be required to determine projects in scope, for example, to differentiate between grants identified that are developing human relevant research which would reduce/replace the use of animals, rather than using non-animal technologies as part of the project.

We can also confirm that UKRI does not hold information relating to what percentage of funding provided by UKRI constitutes full or partial funding to a project.

It may also be useful to know that UKRI has responded to similar requests in the past, the responses to which are available on [UKRI's Disclosure Log](https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/)¹. An example is [FOI2024/00742](https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/disclosures/318ec014-3152-41ae-9270-900225cc8b16)², which contains some of the data requested on funding granted for research involving the use of animals under ASPA 1986, by individual research council for 2023.

Any revised request will be considered on its own merits and will be subject to the provisions of the FOIA, including the application of any relevant exemptions.

Your rights

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

¹ <https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/>

² <https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/disclosures/318ec014-3152-41ae-9270-900225cc8b16>

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](#)³.

Yours sincerely,


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

³ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>