



[REDACTED]

3 November 2020

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Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00350

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests received on the 19 October. As previously advised, your request submitted under reference FOI2020/00351 has been amalgamated with this request. You requested the following:

Your request:

Dear Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council,

I hope you are well. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following:

- 1) All China Partnering Awards Call applications that contain the word "organ" in the project title since 2003.*
- 2) All China Partnering Awards Call applications submitted by principal investigators from the University of Sheffield since 2010.*

Our response:

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

Regarding China Partnering Awards call applications that contain the word "organ" in the project title, we have determined that the information you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. To explain further, companies apply to the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) in confidence and with the expectation that their bid information, including their application, will be kept in confidence. If the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

For China Partnering Awards call applications submitted by principal investigators from the University of Sheffield, I can neither confirm nor deny whether UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds the information you have requested.

Section 41(1) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if such disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence. Section 41(2) provides an exclusion from the duty placed on a public authority such as UKRI to confirm or deny the existence of the information if the act of confirming or denying would itself result in an actionable breach of confidence. We believe that is the case in regard to your request.

The terms of the exemption in the FOIA mean that UKRI do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for us to reveal whether or not the information is held.

The fact section 41 of the FOIA has been cited should not be taken as an indication that the information you requested is or is not held by UKRI.

It may be useful to note that details of all previous successful China Partnering Awards are available in the public domain and can be found at <https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/china-previous-awards-pdf/>.

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: <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 | dataprotection@ukri.org