



[REDACTED]

04 May 2020

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**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00095**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 7 April 2020 in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

1. *Detailed step by step, procedural requirements AHRC must comply with in order to allocate public money to any institution*
2. *The contract AHRC has with a member of the public engaged in a university application process*
3. *The due process the adjudicating panel are obliged to follow in assessing prospective PhD students' applications for Chase funding.*

**Our response**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold the information relevant to your request. Please see more information below.

1. *Detailed step by step, procedural requirements AHRC must comply with in order to allocate public money to any institution*

AHRC/UKRI do not have a detailed step by step procedural requirements which must be complied with in order to allocate money to institutions. There are over-arching principles that guide decision-making and a number of executive, operational, advisory and governing bodies that work together to ensure the funds are supporting research and innovation in the most responsible and valuable way.

Our funding policy and processes are guided by the UKRI Framework document in conjunction with legal and regulatory requirements. In particular:

- the Higher Education and Research Act;
- delegation, accounting officer and annual allocations letters from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to UKRI to AHRC;
- the UK government's 'Managing Public Money' document, and other instructions and rules issued by the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.

The executive and governing bodies of AHRC are guided by these in making informed and transparent decisions, with an eye to strategic spending that provides value for money.

The page at <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/governance-and-structure/> provides links to these documents. Regular reporting and audits ensure that funding procedures and decisions are in line with policy.

Specific funding calls may include information on the process through which funding awards are made. Our Research Funding guide (<https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide/>) and Peer Review pages (<https://ahrc.ukri.org/peerreview/>) on the website provide information on how the funding process works in general.

In terms of institutions: in order to apply to UKRI for funding, organisations must meet certain eligibility requirements (<https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>). Funded bodies and researchers are also asked to act in accordance with UKRI terms and conditions and research integrity policies.

*1. The contract AHRC has with a member of the public engaged in a university application process*

AHRC does not have a contract with any individual who is applying to a university (or group of universities) for funding that has been awarded by AHRC to that university (or group of universities). AHRC provides funding through a grant to a university or group of universities who must administer the funding in accordance with the UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions.

*2. The due process the adjudicating panel are obliged to follow in assessing prospective PhD students' applications for Chase funding.*

UKRI/AHRC do not hold this information, to explain further, the university or group of universities awarded the grant funding have the responsibility to design and put in place the processes and procedures for the assessment of prospective PhD students' applications for funding.

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  
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