



[REDACTED]

5 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00410**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 8 September in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am writing to request information on open letters received by UKRI in 2020*

*My specific questions:*

- 1. Can you provide a list of open letters received by UKRI in 2020*
- 2. Can you provide a list of written public responses by UKRI to open letters to UKRI received in 2020 (the response date does not matter, only if the response was written and public).*
- 3. Can you provide a list of open letters received in 2020 that have not received a public written response from UKRI but which UKRI is aware of and has acknowledged receipt.*

**Our response**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request.

Please see the information provided at *Annex 1 - Correspondence identified as an open letter*, for a list of correspondence and statements we have identified as 'open letters'.

For the purposes of your request we have applied the commonly accepted definition of an open letter, and therefore have included letters either published openly online, in the press or similar, and correspondence or statements which explicitly state within the text that it is an open letter.

The table identifies open letters received by the CEO's office as well as any other correspondence identified by UKRI as being an open letter.

Additionally, UKRI published two separate open letters on 30 March and 1 June 2020 from the former CEO, Sir Mark Walport, to address concerns that the research and innovation community had raised during the pandemic.

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  
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

## Annex 1 - Correspondence identified as an open letter

<b>Date received by UKRI</b>	<b>Sender</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of response/publication</b>
24.03.2020	216 (unnamed) current PhD scholars and Post-doctoral researchers plus a number of academic signatories (e.g., Prof Louise Locock, University of Aberdeen), sent from Edinburgh Napier University to UKRI Press Inbox	Open letter on behalf of PhD scholars and post-doctoral researchers – sent to 'funding councils, universities and charitable trusts'	UKRI CEO open letter published online 30.03.2020
26.03.2020	Alessandro Ceccarelli, President, University of Cambridge Graduate Union	Urgent Open Letter: Research Students call for guaranteed funding during pandemic	Response sent on 16.04.2020
13.05.2020	PhD students at White Rose College of Arts & Humanities (WRoCAH)(AHRC funded DTP led by York with Sheffield and Leeds)	Impact of COVID-19 on WRoCAH funded PhD Students	Response sent on 05.06.2020
14.05.2020	Anna Klieber, Chair of the Equality & Diversity Committee, Dept of Philosophy University of Sheffield	Open Letter to UKRI: honour your commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion during Covid-19	Response sent on 05.06.2020
14.05.2020	Penny Andrews, PhD Candidate at University of Sheffield and 11 other students	Open Letter regarding Specific Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled, Chronically Ill and Neurodivergent PhD Students Due to COVID-19	Online response published 23.06.2020
04.06.2020	Alex Kirby-Reynolds, ESRC Brexit Aftermaths funded Doctoral Researcher, Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield	Open Letter to UKRI and Other Bodies on Behalf of UK PGRs Regarding COVID-19 Support	Communications team mailbox responded on 05.06.2020 with holding note. Response sent on 21.07.2020

<b>Date received by UKRI</b>	<b>Sender</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of response/publication</b>
29.06.2020	Sam Giles, Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow	DTP/CDT Recruitment	Response sent on 22.07.2020 plus follow up dialogue
02.07.2020	Dr Keston Perry Dr Richard Itaman Dr Nicola Rollock and Angelique Golding, Black Economists for Racial Justice	Open letter on racial justice in higher education	Response sent on 25.01.2021
19.07.2020	Keri Facer, FAcSS Professor of Educational and Social Futures, University of Bristol	University-Community Partnerships to Build Back Better	Response sent on 11.08.2020
17.08.2020	Addy Adelaine et al.	Knowledge Is Power—An Open Letter To UKRI	Response published on 10.09.2021
16.11.2020	Open letter from ~1000 researchers including members of UKRI peer review college	UKRI announcement on PhD extensions	Response published on UKRI website 04.12.2020
20.11.2020	Hillary Gyebi-Ababio, Matt Crilly, Becky Ricketts and Ellen Fearon, National Union of Students (NUS)	Treatment of PhD students during Covid-19	Response sent on 08.12.2020