



[REDACTED]

26 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00455

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 1 October in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Thank you for your response.

As suggested, I wish to amend the original request to limit the information required to:

- 1. copy of the final outturn report, including recommendations.*
- 2. details of any further planned potential follow-on studies involving UKRI in respect of SDC-1801.*

Our response

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

With regards to question 1, 'final outturn report' is not a term used by Innovate UK, however of closest relevance would be the Monitoring Officer (MO) reports and a Project Completion Form (PCF).

MO reports are generated by the Monitoring Officer throughout and at the close of the project and the PCF is completed by the project participant within 30 days of the project ending. They include comments on issues, scope, timing, cost, exploitation, risk and project management. This information falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

This is a qualified exemption, meaning that a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest outweighs the requirement for commercial confidentiality.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- The final MO reports contain commercially sensitive information such as project issues, scope, timing, cost, exploitation, risk and project management which are disclosed to UKRI in confidence. The agreement we have with participants in our programmes is that we will not release any confidential information without their permission. Releasing the final MO reports could be taken advantage of by competitors in planning competing strategies for further business opportunities. Applicants complete the application form knowing

that if they achieve success only a brief overview of their successful bid will be publicly available, everything else will remain confidential.

- Final MO reports contain information that the participant would not anticipate UKRI releasing into the public domain.
- Releasing information provided in confidence to UKRI is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential when held by UKRI.
- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we and engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure; therefore the information is exempt from disclosure.

For the reasons outlined above, we have determined that the information you have requested also falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided 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.

With regard to question 2 of your request, I can confirm that this information is not held. In the event that a follow-on study in respect of SDC-1801 successfully applied for funding, Innovate UK would publish details of this on the [transparency page](#)¹.

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,


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UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>