



5 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00640

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 23 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

This is an information request relating to the number of staff who are allowed to work from abroad.

Please include the following information, for the 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 financial years:

- The number of staff, per year, given permission to work from abroad*
- For each member of staff granted permission, please provide their pay band, the country they have been allowed to work from, the length of time that they have been allowed to work for and the dates they were allowed to work from abroad. Please also provide the reason. If any of this is not possible to provide, please provide the remaining information*

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

Our response

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

We note that you sent the same request to a number of research councils; please note that all research councils, Innovate UK and Research England have been brought together under UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as of April 2018. As this is the case, all your requests have been collated into a single request under UKRI.

In the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 fewer than five individuals in total were given permission to work from abroad in each of these years.

The information you have requested related to pay band, the country they have been allowed to work from, the length of time that they have been allowed to work for and the dates they were allowed to work from abroad as well as the reason has been withheld under Section 40(2) of the FOIA relating to personal data, where information relates to fewer than five individuals. We consider that to disclose information relating to small numbers of individuals would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) of lawfulness, fairness and transparency. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Please note that the information provided above does not relate to staff posted abroad.

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 within the next 40 working days:

Head of Information Governance


Email: foi@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: 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 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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