



[REDACTED]

17 October 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00324

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 10 October in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Can you please provide the records that show the different types of geoengineering and weather modification techniques that have been or are being carried out either via a trial or otherwise in the UK?

In the US the NOAA have a searchable database of similar records. Is there a similar database over here to which members of the public can access these records?

<https://library.noaa.gov/Collections/Digital-Collections/Weather-Modification-Project-Reports>

Can you also provide records of the legislation that regulates these activities?

Our response

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

Under Section 21 of the FOIA - Information already reasonably accessible, the information you have requested is already available in the public domain on [Grants on the Web](#)¹ and [Gateway to Research](#)² (GtR), where you can search on key words for research that NERC supports. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

As part of our duty to advise and assist under the FOIA, you may find the following publicly available information of interest:

UKRI funds projects investigating greenhouse gas removal, which is considered under the banner of geoengineering. Last year, UKRI funded 5 demonstrator projects to investigate the viability of removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and an overarching programme Directorate Hub which looked across greenhouse gas removal: <https://www.ukri.org/news/uk-invests-over-30m-in-large-scale-greenhouse-gas-removal/>³

We also funded a programme in advance on this on Greenhouse Gas Removal from the Atmosphere (see http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_them.asp?them=Greenhouse+Gas+Removal)⁴.

¹ <http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/refno.asp?cookieConsent=A>

² <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

³ <https://www.ukri.org/news/uk-invests-over-30m-in-large-scale-greenhouse-gas-removal/>

⁴ http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_them.asp?them=Greenhouse+Gas+Removal&cookieConsent=A

UKRI does not currently have any funded geoengineering research projects experimentally testing approaches. However, there are some studentships funded by UKRI on geoengineering that are modelling based (they do not include any actual experimental or demonstration work).

<https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=studentship-2547090>⁵

<https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=studentship-2390197>⁶

NERC also previously funded a [public dialogue](#)⁷ on geoengineering.

UKRI does not hold any information on the legislation that regulates these activities.

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: 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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⁵ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=studentship-2547090>

⁶ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=studentship-2390197>

⁷ <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20170110120841/http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/geoengineering/>