



4 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00212**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 17 June in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*(1) May I have a list of scientific assessors who are qualified to scientifically determine the dynamics of an individual falling down or on a stairway*

*(2) May I also acquire a list of court approved Bio-mechanical Engineers please*

*Could I, in addition, request the professional correspondence addresses of the aforesaid individuals.*

**Our response**

We will consider each of your questions in turn.

UKRI - EPSRC are unable to confirm or deny whether we hold a list of scientific assessors who are qualified to scientifically determine the dynamics of an individual falling down or on a stairway. This is because we have established that the cost of determining whether we hold the information would exceed the appropriate limit. Under Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this limit is set at £450, or 18 hours of staff time.

To explain further, EPSRC only records minimal background information on experts consulted, and only the information related to the specific project that they are consulted for. The list of experts is not exhaustive, and relies on information provided by the expert, which varies in the level of detail. Therefore, it would not provide a complete picture.

Furthermore, the information on experts held in the system is not easily extractable. This is because "bio-mechanical engineers" is not a term used by EPSRC systems. The system also does not allow for searches of individual experts, rather it allows searches by grant or publication history. EPSRC would therefore have to manually assess hundreds of thousands of experts to establish which experts, if any, had the expertise that would match your request.

At a conservative estimate of one minute to review each assessor, with a minimum of 100,000 documents, this would take over 1,600 hours to complete. This would exceed that statutory limit of 18 hours of staff resource to locate, retrieve and extract the information. This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 12(2) of the FOIA, as the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

EPSRC have advised that it would be best to contact [REDACTED] to establish how we can advise and assist you outside the remit of an FOIA request, but have asked that you first contact the Institution of

Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), who may be able to help you further in your request. For ease of reference, we have provided contact details for the institute at Annex 1.

Moving on to your second question, we can confirm that EPSRC does not hold a list or any information about whether bio-medical Engineers are court approved. We would suggest contacting the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) to see whether they can assist with this question.

Finally, we would like to advise you that UKRI has funded three projects related to the dynamics of an individual falling down the stairs. Further information on each of these awards is accessible from our online platform [Gateway to Research](#)<sup>1</sup> For your ease of reference, we have provided this information at Annex 2. This includes details on the title, abstract, principal investigator and start and end date for of each of these awards.

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)


Address: UK Research and Innovation, Polaris House, Swindon, SN2 1FL.

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](http://www.ico.org.uk) or at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

## Annex 1

Institution of Mechanical Engineers  
One Birdcage Walk  
London  
SW1H 9JJ  
United Kingdom

General enquiries: +44 (0)20 7222 7899, [enquiries@imeche.org](mailto:enquiries@imeche.org)  
Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm. Closed on public holidays.

## Annex 2

### Information from Gateway to Research

**Project:** Understanding and predicting falls of people living with dementia

**Date:** Sep 18 - Sep 19

**Organisation:** Swansea University

**People:** Xianghua Xie (Primary Supervisor), Isabel Jenkins (Student)

**Brief Abstract:** Falls are a serious health and social care concern, as they are related to lack of social interaction (going out), hospitalisation, hip fractures, death, immobilisation, etc. There is published evidence that cognitive impairment, especially dementia, is an increased risk factor for falls due to reduced ability to dual-task and share attention. Recent research has focused on developing AI-based methods for detecting falls. However, this research is yet to be set in wider social and psychological contexts. The project aims at addressing this shortage by combining computer science and psychology methods in a study that seeks to understand the fall mechanisms, and the wider context within which people have falls. This new understanding should allow devising intervention strategies.

**Project:** Biomechanical and sensory constraints of step and stair negotiation in old age.

**Date:** Nov 09 - Feb 14

**Organisation:** Manchester Metropolitan University

**People:** Constantinos Maganaris (Principal Investigator), Vasilios Baltzopoulos (Co-Investigator)

**Brief Abstract:** [None Provided]

**Project:** StairFast Construction site stair safety system, using Digital/AR enhancement

**Date:** Nov 20 - Apr 21

**Organisation:** Accurate Safety Limited

**People:** Graham Norton (Project Manager)

**Brief Abstract:** Accurate Safety Ltd design and supplies best in class construction site safety edge protection, to prevent falls from height - the leading cause of deaths and injuries in construction, according to the Health and Safety Executive. Internal stairwells without balustrades pose a particular risk for contractors working on construction sites, in addition to the new social distancing requirements, which this innovation can help improve significantly.