



[REDACTED]

11 July 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

**Environmental Information Regulations request: EIR2024/00413**

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulations request received on the 16 April in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*1. Under EIR please provide evidence that UKRI and Innovate UK are operating under a zero (or no, or low) support for fossil fuel based technology for research and/or funding. And also in relation to research and funding for pollution mitigation solutions from fossil fuels and technology.*

*Clarification: we should take "evidence" to mean policy, or any documentation that states we are operating under a zero/low support for fossil fuel-based tech and research, or suppressing the funding of research based on fossil fuels*

*2. Please provide under EIR the documentation that the UKRI and Innovate UK are supposed to be researching zero emission at tailpipe technology.*

**Our response**

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold any information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

Under regulation 12(4)a) we can confirm that UKRI does not hold any policy or documentation that shows UKRI operates under a zero or low support for fossil fuel-based technology for research and/or funding. This applies also in relation to research and funding for pollution mitigation solutions from fossil fuels and technology. UKRI does not hold documentation in relation to the second part of your request regarding researching zero emission at tailpipe technology.

As part of our duty to provide advice and assistance under regulation 9 you may find the following information helpful in understanding UKRI's response to the government's [Net Zero Research and Innovation Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-research-and-innovation-framework)<sup>1</sup> which is a guide to the research and technologies needed to reach net zero by 2050. With regard to part 2 of your request it notes on (page 57) the policy ambition that "End sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans. All new cars and vans must be zero emission at the tailpipe (2035)" and UKRI's work supports these ambitions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-research-and-innovation-framework>  
UK Research and Innovation, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1FL

UKRI's [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#)<sup>2</sup> sets out the aims and objectives of UKRI and notes key milestones. [Responding to climate change](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Cutting carbon emissions to net zero](#)<sup>4</sup>, [Clean Air](#)<sup>5</sup> and [Fossil fuel power generation](#)<sup>6</sup> provide information touching on the bold initiatives UKRI is enabling and supporting in underpinning the government's commitment to achieving a net zero economy by 2050, responding to the challenges of climate change and living more sustainably. While [UKRI's Strategy 2022-2027](#) highlights UKRI's overall aims and direction in this area.

[EPSRC's delivery plan](#)<sup>7</sup> discusses reducing reliance on fossil fuels (page 23) and zero pollution technologies and systems (page 25), while [EPSRC Building Net Zero Future](#)<sup>8</sup> highlights a few of the many climate solutions researchers are developing, which have benefitted from EPSRC investments.

[Innovate UK's Strategic Delivery Plan](#)<sup>9</sup> details the clear focus on decarbonisation and delivering Net Zero activities.

We also refer you to the [Innovate UK Transport Vision 2050](#)<sup>10</sup> which highlights net zero as a strategic imperative. There is further information provided in [Reimagining transport: UK Transport Vision 2050 - Innovate UK Business Connect \(ktn-uk.org\)](#)<sup>11</sup> which states that "*The document will help to inform our investments: between April 22 and March 2025 Innovate UK and our partners will invest £2 billion, shaping the future of transport and demonstrating the significance of this sector to the UK.*" The [Scaling Climate Technology – Net Zero Review 2023](#) summarises all of the work UKRI have been doing in net zero and the investments that are being made.

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](mailto: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](http://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](#)<sup>12</sup>.

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>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/policies-standards-and-data/corporate-policies-and-standards/environmental-sustainability/environmental-sustainability-strategy/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/news-and-events/responding-to-climate-change/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/news-and-events/responding-to-climate-change/topical-stories/cutting-carbon-emissions-to-net-zero/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/clean-air/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/fossil-fuel-power-generation/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/EPSRC-010922-StrategicDeliveryPlan2022.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/EPSRC-170622-BuildingNetZeroFuture.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/IUK-080922-InnovateUKStrategicDeliveryPlan.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [11312\\_UK-Transport-Vision-2050-2nd-edition-SP-Final.pdf \(ktn-uk.org\)](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/IUK-080922-InnovateUKStrategicDeliveryPlan.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [11312\\_UK-Transport-Vision-2050-2nd-edition-SP-Final.pdf \(ktn-uk.org\)](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/IUK-080922-InnovateUKStrategicDeliveryPlan.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>