



[REDACTED]

01 May 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00212**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 11 March in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am requesting all reports from 2019 onward related to Project CESIUM. This was funded by Innovate UK and awarded to Trilateral Research, Lincolnshire Police and the NWG Exploitation Response Unit.*

*The reports should include project and financial reports.*

**Our response**

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

We have determined that the reports you have requested fall under section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for information provided in confidence, and section 43(2) for commercial interests.

**Section 41 – information provided in confidence**

To explain further for section 41, these reports were provided to us in confidence. Disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence, as the information is not publicly available and was supplied with a clear expectation that it would not be disclosed into the public domain.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to the public interest test.

**Section 43 – commercial interests**

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, and a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs public interest in disclosure.

**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.

- It would be in the public interest to view the reports as public monies are used to fund this activity. As this is the case it is important that the programme has a positive impact and is beneficial to all parties involved. Seeing copies of these reports enables the public to independently assess the impact of the Project.

### **Public interest in favour of withholding the information**

- These documents contain sensitive information such as project timelines, risks, costs, and current progress. These factors have not been publicly disclosed; if this information were disclosed it could weaken the third party's position in a competitive market, by revealing market-sensitive information.
- The third party operates in a field that is highly competitive where any key approach or novelty may offer a key strategic advantage in the market. If we were to disclose these reports, we believe it may compromise a commercial advantage to a competitor and reduce the third party's market position.
- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we 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 and therefore the information is exempt from disclosure.

The overall funding provided has been published on [Gateway to research](#)<sup>1</sup>. This publication outlines the amount of funding awarded and the public description of the project and what they hope to achieve.

### **Your rights**

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

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 procedure](#)<sup>2</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>1</sup> <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=32807>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>