



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

11 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00190**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 29 June and clarification received 23 July in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Natural Environment & Technology's IT Department:*

1. *Chief Information Security Officer's contact details*
2. *Cybersecurity budgets for the past 10 years*
3. *Cybersecurity spending*
4. *Any relevant cybersecurity timelines*

*Regarding "relevant cybersecurity timelines" I request information pertaining to any regular cybersecurity reviews or projects at the University over the stipulated time period, as well as any cybersecurity reviews or projects that have been proposed or forecasted by the University.*

**Our response:**

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

All the research councils, Innovate UK and Research England have been brought together under UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and UKRI's IT Department is referred to as "Digital, Data and Technology" (DDaT).

It is also worth highlighting that UKRI is not a University. UKRI works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

1. DDaT do not have a Chief Information Security Officer. The closest comparable title would be Head of Information Security. Communications for this position can be directed through [ddatbusinessops@ukri.org](mailto:ddatbusinessops@ukri.org).
2. DDaT was formed in April 2019, so aggregated budgets are not available before this time. The cybersecurity budget for 2019/20 was £605,800. The cybersecurity budget for 2020/21 is £1,216,126.
3. See response to point 2.
4. Withheld under Section 31 (see below).

Releasing the information requested in point 4 would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime as per Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to a public interest test. UKRI applied the Public Interest Test to this request as set out below;

**Public interest in favour of disclosure:**

- There is a public interest in favour of release of the information, to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability, in disclosing information about government or public authority infrastructure and contracts

**Public interest test in favour of withholding the information:**

- The release of this information would make UKRI more vulnerable to crime
- The crime in question would be a malicious attack on UKRI's computer infrastructure and/or systems
- The release of this information would be seen to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, by making UKRI's computer systems more vulnerable to hacking and therefore facilitate the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out as it may serve to highlight weaknesses in UKRI's security
- There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping government or public authority computer systems secure, which would be served by non-disclosure.

UKRI has therefore reached the conclusion that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding the selected information under Section 31(1)(a).

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)

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: <http://www.ico.gov.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  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)