



[REDACTED]

04 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00200

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 3 April in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Please may I make a freedom of information request to receive, on behalf of the CENTA2 DTP, the diversity data for all the NERC REP placements in 2021 and 2022. I would like to receive this electronically to my email address above.

Our response

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

The data in the attached document has been prepared in line with the [UKRI diversity data principles](#)¹:

- Results are suppressed for groups with 1 to 4 members, and the values are shown as zero
- The 'null value total' refers to the number of results which have been suppressed, as stated above. This will give an indication of the proportion of "suppressed" zeroes and results which are actually zero.
- Counts of 5 or more are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5

It is important to note that the 2021 data was collected using two different mechanisms, Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) and Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) submissions, and also direct student submissions. The data within sources 1 and 2 might be duplicated as a DTP/CDT may have reported the whole cohort of students, and the student may have also submitted data to us. Within our internal analysis we have only used the DTP/CDT data to avoid the risk of duplication.

It should also be noted that source 1 does not capture all Research Experience Placement (REP) students within 2021, as we only received responses for 65% of the total awards. The same is also true within source 2, as we only received responses for 35% of the total awards. For source two, we are not able to calculate the representation for initial applications and invited to interview as we don't have the total number of applicants and total number invited to interview from across the DTPs and CDTs (only the number of awards we fund).

The source 3 data was collected by NERC from DTPs and CDTs following the 2022 REPs. An online form was used to submit the data directly to NERC. Please note that the 'appointments' are the number of successful candidates offered REPs through the recruitment process. The 'awards' are the number of placements which occurred (awards are sometimes less than appointments if students withdraw). A caveat of the data is that where awards are higher than the appointments (e.g., within the mixed ethnicity category) this is related to an input error and DTPs/CDTs not reporting figures at all stages of the recruitment process e.g., entering only number of awards and not the number of appointments (this issue is also evident within invited to interview data).

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-data/>

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

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,


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