REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing in response to the request you made to BBSRC under the Freedom of Information Act, which was received on Tuesday 16 February 2016.

Statement of information requested

Please can you tell me if your department has had any meetings, money or any other benefits from the following companies:

1. Lockheed Martin
2. Boeing
3. BAE Systems
4. Raytheon
5. Northrop Grumman
6. General Dynamics
7. EADS/Airbus Group
8. United Technologies Corporation
9. Finmeccanica
10. Thales

Background

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is one of seven Research Councils that work together as Research Councils UK (RCUK). It is funded from the Government’s Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. BBSRC’s budget for 2014/15 was £509M and it supports around 1,600 scientists and 2,000 research students in universities and institutes in the UK. Information about BBSRC’s mission can be found on our website at http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/mission.aspx.

UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) provides a range of services, including IT, to BBSRC and other public sector organisations. UK SBS enters contracts on its clients behalf and provides services to them.

Duty to confirm or deny

BBSRC does hold information related to this request.

Exemptions

Time to identify, locate and retrieve information relevant to your request

As you may already be aware, the FOIA applies a limit to the cost/time it would take to identify, locate and retrieve the information requested. For BBSRC, as a Non-Departmental Public Body, this limit is £450 (or 18 hours), and to provide the information that you have requested would breech this limit. Further information regarding the FoI Act and exemptions can be found using the following web link https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/

Unfortunately we do not have any preconfigured tools that provide automatic indexing of calendar entries for meetings across the entire organisation and attempts using available
desktop tools were unsuccessful and took longer than 2 hours to index a single calendar for the period requested. BBSRC has in excess of 300 calendars.

Your request could be brought under the limit by limiting your request to money or any other benefits from the companies listed.

If you have any further questions, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

BBSRC Freedom of Information Officer

Publication: please note that this response to your request may be published on a public website.

Complaints Process

If you are dissatisfied with how we have handled your request, you may register a formal complaint with the BBSRC Complaints Officer at complaints.officer@bbsrc.ac.uk, who will conduct an internal review.

If you are not happy with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner, Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, Tel: 01625 545 745, https://ico.org.uk/.