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 Thursday 18 February 2016.

Statement of information requested

As a more specific example, the James Hutton Institute recently (in the last month) used terms that can be found in BBSRC Settlement agreements on the BBSRC web site as an indirect means of preventing me from visiting the Institute when I carry out work for my new employer, which is also a publicly funded academic body. As it has been clear from previous SARs there is direct interaction between the Institute HR and BBSRC then it is reasonable to suggest that decisions that continue to affect me should have required some form of advice from BBSRC HQ. While this may not contain my name, any advice from BBSRC People and Development staff that would allow the use of terms in BBSRC settlement agreements as a means of preventing former employees from being allowed to visit their former Institute in new employment should be released under Freedom of Information.

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 holds no information for your request.

The Settlement Agreement within the BBSRC Employment Code provides a template. Institutes should take their own legal advice and may adapt the framework to suit the particular circumstances of each case. BBSRC would not provide any further information or advice on the use of any of the clauses or any information on how staff should be treated after they have left employment.

No advice was given by Personnel and Development Group to the James Hutton institute regarding the Settlement Agreement.

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/.