7 June 2016

Reference number: FoI - 294

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 Friday 4 December 2015.

Statement of information requested

1. Please advise the total staff headcount that are employed directly by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, with each part-time employee counted as one employee. Please exclude all temporary agency workers from this figure.

2. Please identify each supplier that the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has a contract with to supply temporary agency workers.

3. Please identify the type of contract that the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has with each of these suppliers (preferred supplier list/ framework/ etc. If framework, please indicate which - e.g. MSTAR/ YPO/ Panel London/ Pan London/ NPS All Wales/ Crown Commercial Services/ etc - and whether this is on a neutral/ master/ hybrid vender model or lot, etc).

4. For each contract identified within (2) above, please advise of both the inception and end dates.

5. Please advise the full name of the main contact responsible for the main (or majority of the) contract(s) identified within (2) above, together with their:
   a. job title;
   b. group (either team, division or department, whichever is the smallest identifiable group);
   c. telephone number;
   d. email; and
   e. full postal address, inc postcode.

6. Please identify all suppliers that the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has sourced a temporary agency worker from - but does not have a contract with - from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

7. For each temporary agency supplier (either a. contracted as identified within (2) above; b. non-contracted as identified within (6) above; and c. all workers the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has sourced directly), how much has been spent on each supplier, from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016?

8. For each temporary agency supplier (either a. contracted as identified within (2) above; b. non-contracted as identified within (6) above; and c. all workers the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has sourced directly), how many placements, from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, were for 13 consecutive weeks or longer?

9. For each temporary agency supplier (either a. contracted as identified within (2) above; b. non-contracted as identified within (6) above; and c. all workers the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has sourced directly), how many orders, from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016...
   a. were fulfilled from same-day to 2-working-days;
   b. were fulfilled from 3 to 10-working-days;
   c. were fulfilled longer than 10-working-days
   ...from when the order was made? Also how many...
   d. were not fulfilled.
10. Please identify the role for each order not fulfilled within 20-working-days, from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, and the group (either team, division or department, whichever is the smallest identifiable group) each of these roles was within.

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 information relating to your request.

Exemptions

Section 12 of the FoI Act states the following;

Section 12 of FOIA allows a public authority to refuse to deal with a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to: - either comply with the request in its entirety or; - confirm or deny whether the requested information is held.

- The estimate must be reasonable in the circumstances of the case.
- The appropriate limit is currently £600 for central government and £450 for all other public authorities.
- Where a public authority claims that section 12 is engaged, it should, where reasonable, provide advice and assistance to help the requestor to refine the request so that it can be dealt with under the appropriate limit.

Please use the following link for more information regarding the FoI Act and exemptions; https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/refusing-a-request/.

Unfortunately we are unable to answer your request as it is, as the request is currently covered by Section 12 of the FoI Act.

You have requested a lot of detailed information. Reducing the amount of detail requested in each part of the request, may help in bringing the request within the threshold. For example, in question 9 you ask for all agencies used;

- were fulfilled from same-day to 2-working-days;
- were fulfilled from 3 to 10-working-days;
- were fulfilled longer than 10-working-days
- ...from when the order was made? Also how many...
- were not fulfilled

By only providing the agency details the request would be brought within the limit.

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/.