14 July 2016

Reference number: Fol - 297

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 21 June 2016.

Statement of information requested

Please could you provide me with information about your ICT expenditure, as broken down in the attached template? I have included this template in order to make it easier for you to understand my requirements and provide answers.

I appreciate that you may publish contracts and transparency data, but I was unable to find the information to the level of detail I require in publish sources.

Within the response, please include:
* Expenditure from all parts of your organisation (central services and business units);
* As well as your own organisation, expenditure for any subsidiary organisations that fall within the scope of your accounts; and
* Both revenue (or operating) expenditure and capital expenditure

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 not hold the information requested.

Requested Information

UK Shared Business Services provides this service to BBSRC under a Business Services Agreement. I suggest you re-send your request, using the email address your original email came from, directly to UKSBS. The UKSBS email address to re-send your request to is UK SBS DPA-FOI DPA-FOI@uksbs.co.uk.

Exemptions that apply

However, after discussing this request with UKSBS it became apparent that the request as it stands would fall under section Section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 states;
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.

Before re-sending your request you may need to refine the request. For instance you may want to reduce the amount of time the request covers.

Please use this link for further information regarding FOI and exemptions; https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/refusing-a-request/

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/.