12 January 2017

Reference number: Foi 323

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

I would like to formally request the following information regarding Genetic Modification tools and techniques (including but limited to CRISPR-Cas9 and other genome-editing techniques)

1) The total number of successful research grant awards in the area of Genetic modification and study, between Jan 1st 2010 and 2nd Dec 2015?

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 client’s behalf and provides services to them.

Duty to confirm or deny

BBSRC holds some of the information requested.

Requested Information

BBSRC holds information on whether successful research grants involve the use or development of genetically modified animals, plants and/or microorganisms (bacteria, yeast, other fungi and viruses). For the great majority of grants in this category, the primary purpose of the research will not be the development of genetically modified organisms but rather to use GM as a research tool in the laboratory to investigate fundamental biological processes.

The information we have is recorded against the financial year in which the award was made; the financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. The closest period to the timeframe requested is those grants awarded between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2016.

During this period 886 grants were awarded that are classified as using or developing genetically modified organisms.
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/.