9 February 2017

Reference number: Fol 327 (2)

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 12 January 2017. This letter supercedes the previous letter sent to you 23 January 2017

Statement of information requested

Thanks for the message but the links that you have sent aren’t really much use for my research. I am interested in the actual overall scores that are used to rank the applications prior to the committee meetings. As the funding is from the taxpayer, I can’t see any reason why anonymised data cannot be released. I do not need to know the year or even the panels, just the ranked consolidated scores from committee meetings.

Please would you reconsider the decision regarding the release of scores? I guess that I could put in a Freedom of Information request but this seems a bit OTT for academic research.

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 some of the information requested.

Requested information

After looking at your request for information, and after discussion at length with with the Director of Information and Communications and also the Head of BBSRC Delivery, the information you have asked for is in the attached Annex 1. Also, at Annex 2 you will find a document relating to guidance notes to the panel.

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/.