

20 December 2018

Analía Boemo

Sent by email: request-527623-2c8df25f@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Analía,

Freedom of Information request: 2018/0179 ES

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 20th October 2018 in which you requested the following:

Your Request:

I would like to get an electronic copy of grant application made by the Centre of Economic Performance, LSE, Project Reference: ES/M010341/1.

I request information (FOI type) about the Application Numbers and Titles of all the Funding Applications made by LSE to ESRC, between 01/12/2016 and 01/10/2018. Also, please indicate which applications were awarded funding.

Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation hold information relevant to your request.

Please see the attached files:

- Application ES/M010341/1
- FOI request LSE applications

Please note that redactions have been made to withhold personal information. Releasing the names of individuals concerned in the attached “Application ES/M010341/1” constitutes personal data under the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 (2) & (3) of the FOI Act provides an absolute exemption in disclosing personal data and therefore is not subject to a Public Interest Test.

Further redactions to “Application ES/M010341/1” have been made where information has been provided to UKRI in confidence and therefore cannot be released. Section 41 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act sets out an absolute exemption from the right to know where the information was provided to the public authority in confidence. Release of this information would amount to a breach of confidence. A Public Interest Test is not required to engage this exemption.

Section 41 has also been applied to “FOI request LSE applications” as we do not disclose grant titles for unfunded applications for the same reasons set out above. The titles of funded applications can be found on [Gateway to Research](#) by searching the reference numbers provided.

The remainder of the information that has been redacted within "Application ES/M010341/1" is considered commercially sensitive and cannot be disclosed as per section 43(2) of the FOI Act. Releasing commercially sensitive information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests and activities of the Institutes concerned and UKRI.

When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you we took into account the following factors:

Public Interest test in favor of disclosure:

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.

Public interest test in favor of withholding the information:

- Releasing information of commercial interest is likely to prejudice the commercial interests and activities of the Institutes and UKRI as the information was provided in confidence to UKRI and releasing it is therefore likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with this and other Institutes.

UKRI has reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 43(2) of the FOI Act.

If you have any queries about this response please contact me, or if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, please write to:

Complaints Officer

UK Research and Innovation
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1FL
Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Enquiry/Information Line: Between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745
Further information about the Office of the Information Commissioner can be found at
<http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

Jason Johnson
UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team
Email: foi@ukri.org