



**UK Research
and Innovation**

UK Research and Innovation
Polaris House
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22nd October 2019

Sent by email: request-591321-c63c812d@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Waters,

Freedom of Information request: 2019/0199 IUK

Thank you for your request for an Internal Review regarding the above-named Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, concerning UKRI support for the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult.

In your Internal Review request you commented on our initial response to your request FOI2019/0199 and stated that:

I do not believe that you are correct in stating that no public money was sent contesting this classification, because Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult is a public body (public money) and is answerable to and under the direction of UKRI (public money).

Information released by Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult under a separate FOI request whilst heavily redacted to the point of being almost completely unusable does clearly indicate that people sending emails and arranging meetings with innovate UK email addresses/signatures spent a considerable amount of time and effort around a period in early 2019 engaging with the Catapult and the ONS and would suggest that the classification determined by ONS was not something which either innovate UK / UKRI or the offshore renewable energy catapult simply accepted and moved on.

As such I would like to state again that even with only limited understanding made available by FOI it is clear that considerable effort was expended by both organisations in debating the classification. As such I do not believe that you do not hold the information as you claim.

In your initial request of 22nd July 2019, you asked:

How much public money was spent on legal services used by UKRI or its subsidiary the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult to contest the classification of Catapult Centres as public sector bodies by the ONS?

UK Research and Innovation has now considered your request and our findings are set out below.

Our response

In considering your Internal Review request we acknowledge that you have expanded your request. In your previous request you asked for information related to costs for legal services incurred by Innovate UK relating to discussions of the ONS classification of the Catapult and you have now made a broader point relating to any public money spent.

Taking account of the revised scope I can confirm that the response remains the same and that UKRI does not hold the information you have requested. Innovate UK has not incurred any legal costs relating to the ONS classification, nor is information held which records staff time involved in any discussions. In addition, UKRI does not hold any information relating to any costs incurred by any other public body.

As stated in our original response, the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult is an independent organisation. The Catapult Centres are a network of world-leading centres designed to transform the UK's capability for innovation in specific areas and help drive future economic growth. Established in 2013 by the UK Government the Catapults were set up by Innovate UK to bring together government, research institutions, academia and businesses.

The Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, like other Catapults is a company and treated as a private sector body. While it receives funding from Innovate UK under the UK Grant Funding Agreement ("GFA") and is monitored in accordance with the Agreement, the Catapult is not part of UKRI nor a subsidiary of Innovate UK.

Further information relating to the operation of the Catapult, including information on funding provided by Innovate UK and further income, including collaborative research & development revenue and commercial revenue, can be found in the *Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Annual Report 2018/2019* available [here](#)¹.

Information released under previous requests:

We have not seen copies of any information provided to you by the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult relating to this matter. However, we can confirm that information released by UKRI, in response to a previous request relating to the Catapult ([FOI 2019/0076 IUK](#)²) was redacted in accordance with the FOIA, the exemptions applied, and our reasons why were outlined in our response and included personal information, information provided in confidence and commercially sensitive information.

Given the points discussed in this letter we can confirm that the information provided in our previous response to your request FOI2019/0199 IUK was correct and that no relevant information is held.

If you are not content with the outcome of this review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner 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,

Rosa Parker
UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team
Email: foi@ukri.org

¹ https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/media.newore.catapult/app/uploads/2019/09/09160103/Catapult-Annual-Report-2018_2019_FINAL.pdf

² <https://www.ukri.org/freedom-of-information/foi-disclosure-log/ukri-foi-2019-0076-iuk-pdf/>