



**By e-mail:** John Lubbock  
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Freedom of Information Office  
4 West  
University of Bath  
Claverton Down  
Bath  
BA2 7AY

22 May 2023

Dear Mr Lubbock

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 2000 – 2023/112**

Your request was received on 24 April 2023 and handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. It is referenced below.

*'I am conducting a survey of UK higher educational institutions to find out which have had business dealings with the Chinese genomic sequencing company BGI Genomics.*

*I would like to ask whether your university has ever had any contracts or business relationships with BGI Genomics. If there has been any work undertaken by BGI Genomics with your university, please can you provide a list of these contracts with dates from and to, and a short description of what the contract was for.'*

Section 1(1) usually entitles you to be told whether the requested information is held and have that information provided to you unless it is judged to be exempt from disclosure. We can confirm the following information.

The University has had a business relationship with BGI Tech Solutions in that the University has purchased BGI Tech Solutions products on an ad hoc basis over the years from 2013 to 2021.

In terms of purchases made the categories include Science Services, Chemicals, Consumables, Nucleotides and Research.

The University's Research Innovation Services also holds information on a research project which is supported by BGI Schenzhen as follows:

Polygamy and Purifying Selection in Birds and Dense Sampling of Bird Diversity Increases Power of Comparative Genomics.

<https://researchportal.bath.ac.uk/en/publications/polygamy-and-purifying-selection-in-birds>

Current PhD research about sequencing which is focused on ecological and evolutionary questions and analysis of the genomes of Arctic shorebirds has all sequencing and bioinformatics expenses paid for by BGI Schenzhen in regard to this project.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of how your request was handled you may ask the University to conduct an internal review. A request for an internal review must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response. Requests received outside this period will only be considered at the University's discretion and where there is a valid reason to do so.

Applications for internal review should be emailed to: The Freedom of Information Team, [freedom-of-information@bath.ac.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information@bath.ac.uk) or addressed in writing to University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7AY.

If you remain dissatisfied you may appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Further details of this process are available via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/> Please note that the Information Commissioner will only consider appeals once the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Bean', written in a cursive style.

D Bean  
Freedom of Information Officer