Dear [Name],

Freedom of Information request: UKRI2018/0069

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request submitted on the 28th June 2018 in which you requested the following:

Your Request:

1. The methodology used to calculate the National Minimum Doctoral Stipend.
2. The procedure for calculating increases in the National Minimum Doctoral Stipend each year.
3. The position within UKRI with ultimate responsibility for approving the National Minimum Doctoral Stipend.

Our response:

I can confirm that we do hold this information that you have requested.

1. The minimum stipend and indicative fees level increases each year in line with the GDP deflator. GDP figures are taken from the following source: [GDP Deflators Qtrly National Accounts June 2017 update.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/624528/GDP_Deflators_Qtrly_National_Accounts_June_2017_update.xlsx)
The following calculations are used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial year</th>
<th>2016-17 = 100</th>
<th>per cent change on previous year</th>
<th>Stipend</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>95.965</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>97.375</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>98.042</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>100.000</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>101.629</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>14,553</td>
<td>4,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>103.193</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>14,777</td>
<td>4,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>104.852</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>15,015</td>
<td>4,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>106.735</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>15,284</td>
<td>4,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>108.653</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>15,559</td>
<td>4,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training Grants are typically 4-9 years in duration. Where training grants are calculated on a per student rate, Research Councils need to make some assumptions about future levels of fees and stipends on those types of grants where the total cost is built up from a per student cost. Future years are calculated to assist with budget forecasting and are subject to change.

Please note that where London Weighting is applied, a further £2K a year is added to the stipend figures used in calculating training grants.

This calculation determines the minimum level for doctoral stipends and institutions have flexibility to award higher stipends if necessary.

2. Each year, the Research Careers Network (RCN) which comprises the leads for Doctoral Training across the research councils, review the fee and stipend level on behalf of all the research councils and calculate the increase in line with the GDP deflator. Prior to the formation of UKRI a paper was then submitted to the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Operations Oversight Board and the RCUK Finance Directors Network for approval. As the research councils were working towards transitioning to UK Research and Innovation in January of this year, the UK Research and Innovation Design and Delivery sub-board also had sight of the paper for approval. The rates are then published on the website and communicated to our investments.

3. In terms of who is now ultimately responsible for approving the stipend uplift, moving forward this will be the UKRI People, Finance and Operations Board.

I hope this answers your questions.

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
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,

UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team

Email: foi@ukri.org