Dear [Name],

Freedom of Information ref UKRI – 2018/ 0078

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request submitted on 4th July 2018 in which you requested the following:

Your Request:

Dear Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council,

I’m working on a project for the OR Society. As part of the project, I’m collecting data about the students studying OR-related courses. Is it possible to share the data below:

The no. of grants awarded for Operational Research-related courses with info of gender, university and year

Thanks very much for your help

Yours faithfully,

UKRI sought clarification of the request as follows:

Dear [Name],

Please can you confirm for which year/s you require this information?
Your Freedom of Information request is currently on hold until we receive clarification from yourself. The 20 day FOI response time will start on receipt of your clarification.

Many thanks.

Clarification provided by you;

Dear UKRI FOI Requests,
I did submit clarification but for some reasons, it didn't show.
In terms of years, ideally, I'd like to have 20 years data if possible (1998-2018).
Thanks very much for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Our response:

I can confirm UKRI does hold the information you requested.

UKRI (EPSRC) have interpreted this request as related to taught programmes of study and received clarification that this was requested for a period covering the last 20 years. EPSRC does not currently award grants specifically to support taught courses. We have funded taught courses in Operational Research in the past, however we do not hold information on these in an accessible form.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act sets out an exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

Section 12 of FOIA allows a public authority to refuse to deal with a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to: - either comply with the request in its entirety or; - confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. The estimate must be reasonable in the circumstances of the case. The appropriate limit is £450 for EPSRC (18 Hours*£25= £450).

Due to the variety of funding mechanisms that may have been employed to support such courses over such a long period, it is not possible for UKRI (EPSRC) to retrieve the data and information without excessive resource.

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,

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